THE MARTLET

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UVic women drop their panties

Rights and Democracy asks students to join the fight against female oppression in Burma

Danielle Pope

Underwear — what is it good for? A group of women in Burma are saying it's worth a lot more than just covering up your naughty bits.

Panties For Peace, a campaign originally launched in 2007 by the women's organization Lanna Action for Burma (LAB), is an attempt to bring an end to the military abuse of Burma's population — especially its women. Now UVic has joined the fight and is asking students to drop their panties.

In the next few weeks, students will see bins popping up around campus in which to deposit their underwear — a push from the UVic Rights and Democracy Network to jump on board the worldwide campaign, which plays on the Burma regime leaders' superstitious fears that contact with a woman's underpants will rob them of their power.

But you don't have to wait for fellow students to take the lead. Women around the world are asked to post their panties to local Burmese embassies in a effort to bring an end to the military's gross violations of human rights.

While the campaign has taken off in countries around the world, like Australia, the Philippines, Germany and others, in Canada Panties for Peace has been led by a coalition of feminist and civil society organizations co-ordinated by the Montreal-based Fédération des Femmes du Québec (Quebec Women's Federation) and the Rights and Democracy Student Network.

Mika Lévesque, Rights and Democracy's Asia Regional Officer who gave a lecture at UVic on Jan. 21 about the military oppression in Burma, said that while the gesture is small, the meaning is huge.

"[Panties for Peace] is really an act of solidarity with the women in Burma," said Lévesque, who originally hails from Quebec. "When I go there and tell them that you care, it's unbelievable to them. It's the littlest thing, but it encourages them to carry on."

Kent Lane, a member of the UVic Rights and Democracy Network and an organizer for the upcoming panty drive, says that getting people aware of an issue they don't normally engage with is an important step to making a change. Lane wanted to help spearhead the drive in an attempt to do just that.

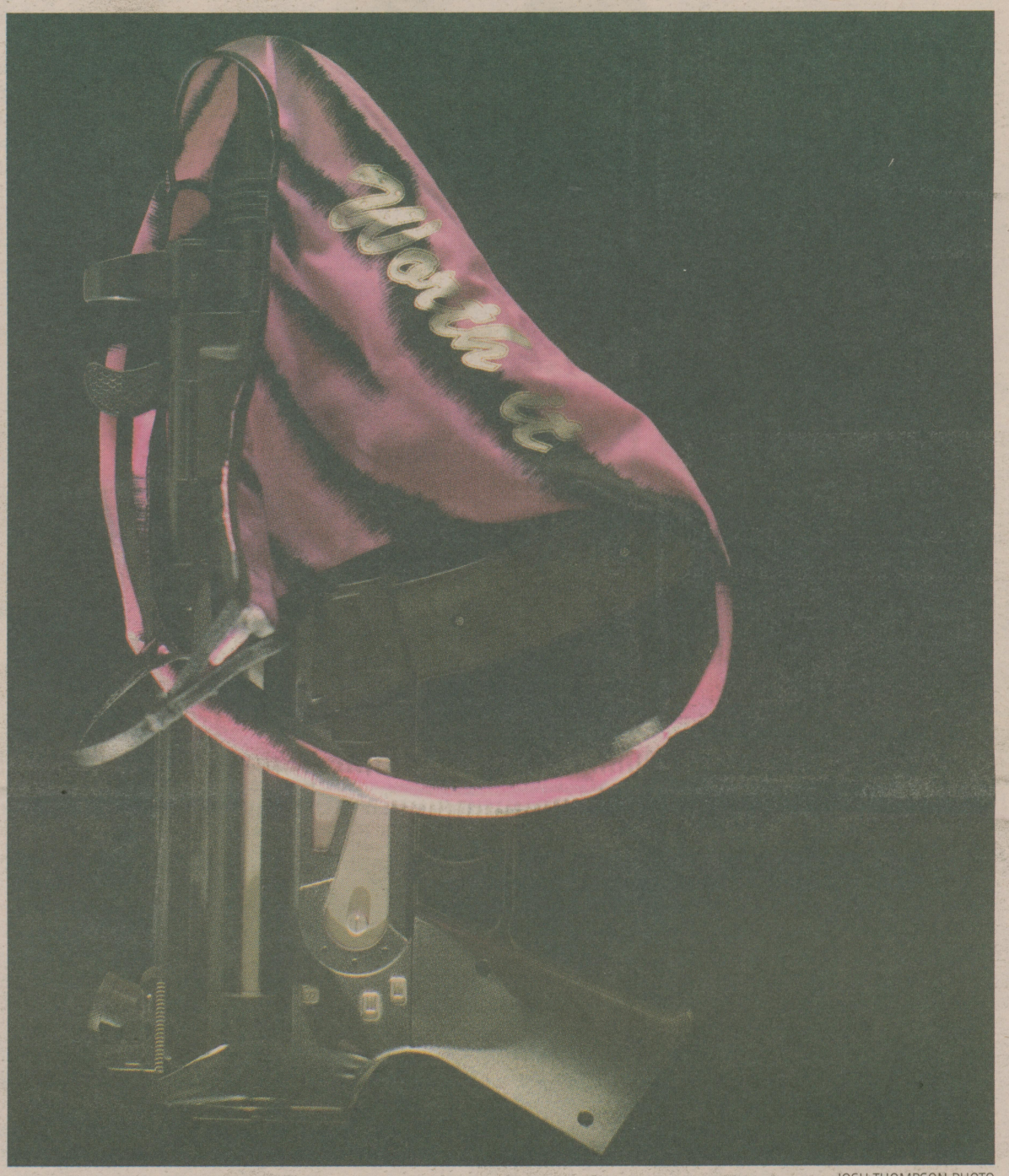
"In the Burma situation, this type of protesting is effective because the people who started it believe that what they're doing can make a difference, and every time they see support it helps to keep them going," Lane said. "We can help that too."

Lévesque said, during her lecture, that Canadians often confuse human rights with democracy. But that view, she said, is skewed.

"When we say human rights, it's qualified," Lévesque said. "What we mean by democracy and human rights largely comes down to the same thing but, in reality, it's how much a state respects human rights that determines whether or not it is democratic."

Lévesque, who spent years working and living in Burma, was recently blacklisted as a "threat" to the country and has been unable to obtain a visa to re-enter. Lévesque is honoured by the trouble, though, and laughs when she says she knows the military fears her. However, she holds the graveness of the issue close to her heart.

See Panties, p. 6



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Organizations all over the world have joined Lanna Action for Burma (LAB) in mailing women's underwear to the Burma military, to play on the regime's fears that contact with female clothing will steal their power.

Referendum asks for "unknowable" fee increases

Tying student fees to inflation would perpetually increase student fees, but could improve the student society

Sam VanSchie

In a referendum during the March student elections, undergraduates will be asked to approve an annual increase in their student fees by the rate of inflation.

The increase could raise full-time student fees by about $2.60 next year ($1.30 per semester) and more each year after that, depending on inflation and how much the base fee is.

While UVic Student Society Chair Caitlin Meggs said the board plans to develop supplementary material to explain how much students can expect to pay over the years if they support the referendum, the question on the ballot won't include any actual dollar amounts.

The question will read: "Do you agree to increase the UVSS Membership Fees annually by the rate of inflation according to the Canadian Consumer Price Index?"

At the board meeting on Jan. 26, where all but one board member voted in favour of holding this referendum, Director of Finance Tracy Ho needed a three-page spreadsheet to break down how much student fees would increase and where they would go under the proposed referendum — and that was only for this year.

"This is just too much confusing information to include in a referendum question," Meggs said, when asked why a sample dollar amount won't be included in the question. "Inflation changes all the time, so the exact numbers are really unknowable."

Full-time undergraduates currently pay the UVSS $67 each semester. The money goes to student clubs and services, as well as the UVSS operating budget, which was where the striking workers of the Student Union Building were looking for their wage increase last September.

"The strike was a very public and obvious sign that we need to increase the amount of money we bring in," Meggs said. "This will help every single aspect of the student society."

Union President Micheal Ryan spoke on behalf of the SUB workers saying their hundred student-workers would support the referendum.

"An annual fee increase structure would serve to lessen the likelihood of future conflict between the UVSS board and its unionized workforce," Ryan said, reading from a prepared statement.

CFUV Station Manager Randy Gelling also spoke in favour of having the money students pay them tied to inflation. The station has passed three successful referendums for fee increases since the station went FM in 1984. Its most recent increase was in 1992.

See *Student Services*, p.2

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

An annual fee increase structure could reduce future conflicts between the UVSS and union workers, says union president Michael Ryan.

Ongoing lecture series considers ethical governance

Brooke Fader

Impassioned discussions broke out in the Grad Centre last Wednesday, Jan. 31, as speaker Vic Murray, Canadian guru of non-profit management, spoke on the topic of "Developing Effective Boards" as part of an ongoing lecture series on ethical governance.

Loud and lively conversations, from scenarios of stifled change to stories of successful and inspiring transformation, lasted long after the speaker was gone.

"The series is important because it introduces people to the ins-and-outs of student government," explained Nicole O'Byrne, a former practicing lawyer and chair of the Graduate Students' Society (GSS). "In my opinion, knowing about the process and how it should work is the first step to making meaningful change."

The GSS co-hosts the discussion series with Access UVic, the advocacy group and association for disabled students.

BROOKE FADER PHOTO

Vic Murray kicked off an ethical governance series by speaking about developing effective boards.

A diverse group of professors and students crowded into the grad lounge to discuss the dynamics and obligations between non-profit boards and their staff, managers and members.

Murray who is currently the Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Administration at UVic, stimulated his audience.

Justin Levine, a third-year Public Administration student who attended the lecture, is in a fourth-year class that Murray wrote the textbook for.

"He's very engaging in person, and his knowledge and experience is impressive," Levine said.

Murray's down-to-earth and engaging style made his presentation a great success. With a particular emphasis on the area of board governance and organizational effectiveness, he took theories and put them into perspective from the Board of Governors of the university to the undergraduate and graduate students' society boards, to how to make the big decisions and the political dimensions of performance evaluations.

"[The series is] an opportunity to educate those students who have an interest in how their students' society is being governed, and to inspire those who desire change," said Kyla Berry, a fourth-year Psychology student and president of Access UVic.

> "It is always a pleasure to work with enthusiastic and energetic participants."
>
> – Vic Murray, Public Administration Prof

Murray explained that a good board, one that is effective, is conscious of the importance of clarity and openness with its staff and members. Without transparency in the decision-making process, boards lose accountability and sometimes lose sight of their mission.

"The talk was absolutely great, but also the audience was very engaged and interesting," noted Chiara Ruffo, a UVic sessional instructor and PhD student.

"The topic of ethical board governance has clearly hit a nerve with students and faculty on campus," Murray said. "It is always a pleasure to work with enthusiastic and energetic participants."

More information and tools to process and evaluate risk can be found at theVoluntary Sector Knowledge Network website: vskn.ca.

The series continues on Feb. 11 with Susan Turner, professor of Philosophy at UVic. She will discuss the effects that "left" or "right" political labels have in the context of board governance.

The Ethical Governance Discussion Series is running on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Grad Centre. For more information, contact info@accessuvic.ca.

Continued from p. 1

Student services struggle with static funding: co-ordinators

"Having a static revenue and rising costs will cause trouble for the sustainability of any student group," Gelling said, noting that the station can generate revenue through advertising and government grants, which isn't an option for other student services.

The Anti-Violence Project (AVP), for example, is funded solely by student fees. Its funding base hasn't increased since 1997. Robin Tosczacthe, co-ordinator of the AVP, wrote a letter to the board in support of holding the referendum, saying such a move was long overdue.

The society's general manager, Marne Jensen, said she's been asking boards to consider a referendum like this for the past three years, but there was always some other referendum up for consideration. The boards have always been reluctant to ask for more than one fee increase at a time.

But this year, advocacy groups have already planned to ask for more money.

Four of the five groups representing minority issues on campus are working together to encourage students to support an increase of $4.55 per full-time student each semester to equalize their funding base at $2 per club.

The money would mean increases of 55 cents for the Women's Centre, $1 for the Native Students Union and $1.50 for each Pride and the Students of Colour Collective.

Meanwhile, Access UVic, the fifth advocacy group, is working independently to encourage students to give them $2 more per full-time student each semester, bringing their funding base up to $3.50 per student.

Gary Dawson-Quatell, who represents the Native Students Union on the board, expressed concern that having so many referendums would cause voters to choose one over the other.

"We're worried that as a minority group we're going to get pushed to the back burner, which has always been a problem in the past," Dawson-Quatell said, though he later voted in favour of bringing the referendum to students after other board members assured him they would campaign to ask students to accept all three referendums.

The only board member to vote against having students vote on the referendum question was Director-at-Large Erin Lacharity. She didn't believe the strike was caused by a lack of operating revenue.

"During the strike, the budget was looked at by accountants who said we did have money, but everybody here [on the board] said we didn't," Lacharity said. "I think we have enough money and it should be allocated better."

UVSS Resource Co-ordinator Ben Johnson said from looking back at documents that historically, multiple referendums have passed at the same time.

The university has postponed its referendum that would seek to increase athletic fees by $55. That question is expected to be put to students next September.

REFERENDUM RECAP

The UVSS will be asking students to open their wallets in support of three referendums. Here's what they want and how much it will cost a full-time student each semester:

- Equalizing base funding to $2 for most advocacy groups, including the Women's Centre, Pride, the Students of Colour Collective and the Native Students Union
  Cost: $4.55 per semester, one time increase
- Increasing Access UVic's (the fifth advocacy group) base funding to $3.50 to support advocacy for students with disabilities
  Cost: $2 per semester, one time increase
- Student fees tied to inflation
  Cost: Between $1-2 per semester depending on inflation, increased annually

The referendum to increase athletic fees by $55 has been postponed until next September.

THE MARTLET

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New bylaw needed for tenting restrictions

Kat Eschner

The city is rethinking how to restrict the hours homeless people have their tents in parks, after a judge said their current enforcement policy is unconstitutional. Homeless advocates hope to be consulted in the process.

Judge Brian Mackenzie ruled in provincial court on Jan. 28 that the city could not use its enforcement policy that forced homeless people to remove temporary shelters during the day because it was not based on a bylaw. The city responded by drafting a short-term bylaw which continues the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. temporary shelter restriction.

The new bylaw would come into play after its fourth reading at a Feb. 5 council meeting. A clause states that it expires March 7.

At this point, no public consultation has been planned. However, "that doesn't mean it won't happen," said Legislative Services Manager for the City of Victoria Don Schaffer.

In his remarks, Mackenzie advised the city that a bylaw with the same restrictions as the enforcement policy would hold up to constitutional scrutiny. However, stakeholders say a new bylaw requires new evidence.

The city created the bylaw last October in an attempt to continue regulating parks activity after the Supreme Court ruling to allow homeless people to set up temporary shelters, which the city feared would encourage tent cities in public parks. The ruling was based in part on the insufficient number of shelter beds in Victoria.

But Kristen Woodruff, David Johnston and Tavis Dodds didn't obey the time restrictions. They were charged with having multiple bylaw violation tickets for setting up tents outside during the day, which they fought in court.

Their lawyers, Catherine Boise-Parker and Irene Faulkner, argued that the Supreme Court ruling said certain sections of the parks bylaw were of no force or effect for homeless persons, with no reference to time of day. They said that meant the bylaw didn't apply to homeless persons, ever.

"And basically, you can't put an enforcement policy on top of a bylaw that has in fact been struck down and is null and void," said Faulkner. "So, our argument has been accepted, and the city can't do this by an enforcement policy."

Faulkner and Boise-Parker expressed hopes that the city will consult stakeholders and citizens when they make a second attempt at dealing with the repercussions of the Supreme Court ruling.

"If they want to go back and amend the bylaws, they have to do that through the proper process, which requires public hearings and readings," said Faulkner.

Both lawyers stressed the inclusion of homeless people in the bylaw review process.

"The next step is for the city to carefully consider what's an appropriate response to the [Supreme Court] decision, and how it wants to address the needs of homeless people," she said. "The city has spent a lot of money and a lot of time studying the homeless problem. They need to talk to the people they have paid to do that and get some creative ideas going."

Defendant Woodruff also said she was open to restrictions being placed on temporary shelters, if a consultation process takes place.

"I don't have a problem with [setting night-time rules for tents] if it's done in consultation with the public in a reasonable and fair way," Woodruff said. "I'm not here to push a certain agenda; I'm here to ask for accountability from the city, and we've gotten that. And that's something."

The case also raised issues about where homeless people can go during the day, and what options homeless people have for shelter at night.

Boise-Parker said daytime information would be vital in crafting a new bylaw.

"The question of whether or not people should be able to erect shelter outside during the day needs to be considered in the context of what other options there are for people to have shelter during the day," said Boise-Parker. "That's not an issue we've ever explored."

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Tents and tarps shelter homeless people for a night on Pandora Street, near the Our Place drop-in centre.

Mackenzie said in the ruling that he believed a new bylaw which set down hours for temporary shelter would pass constitutional muster. Faulkner said she could understand how Mackenzie reached the conclusion, given the evidence examined by the Supreme Court, but she felt more information was required to create a suitable new bylaw.

"The point I would make [in response] is that the evidence of what is available for people during the day was not before Madame Justice Ross," she said. "I don't think that a ruling could be made, in my view, without a court considering such evidence."

Faulkner said other homeless advocacy groups and the homeless themselves would be key in producing the evidence needed to create a new bylaw. She and Boise-Parker may be open to representing the homeless during the bylaw process.

"There are a lot of homeless people and other committees out there that are very capable of making those representations to the city council," said Faulkner. "And I'd hope that's done, and that the city has all the facts before it."

Boise-Parker concurred.

"There's no place for people to go, many times during the day," Boise-Parker said. "As long as that's the case, then there's a problem that needs to be addressed, and they need to think carefully about how they do that, so that we don't go back to do this process all over again. Enacting legislation is problematic."

The municipal government is interested in ending homelessness, not managing it, Mayor Dean Fortin said in his own press conference to respond to the ruling.

"Clearly, the city would like to see more housing, not tents, and feels in the short term the safest and most appropriate place for overnight shelter is at one of the emergency shelters available," said Fortin.

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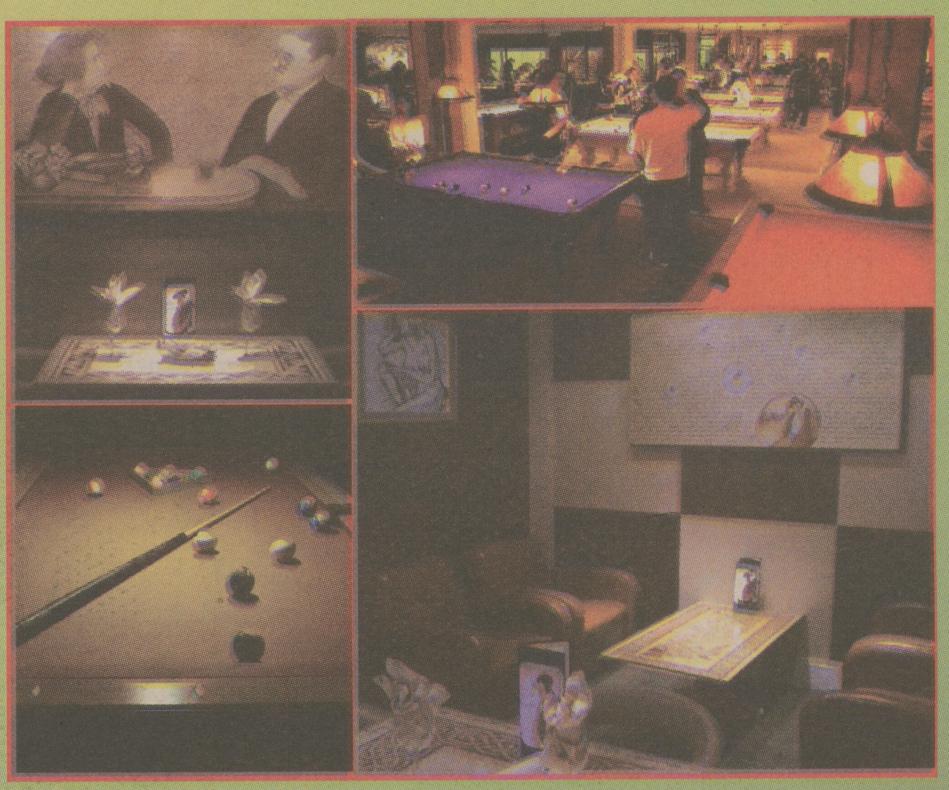

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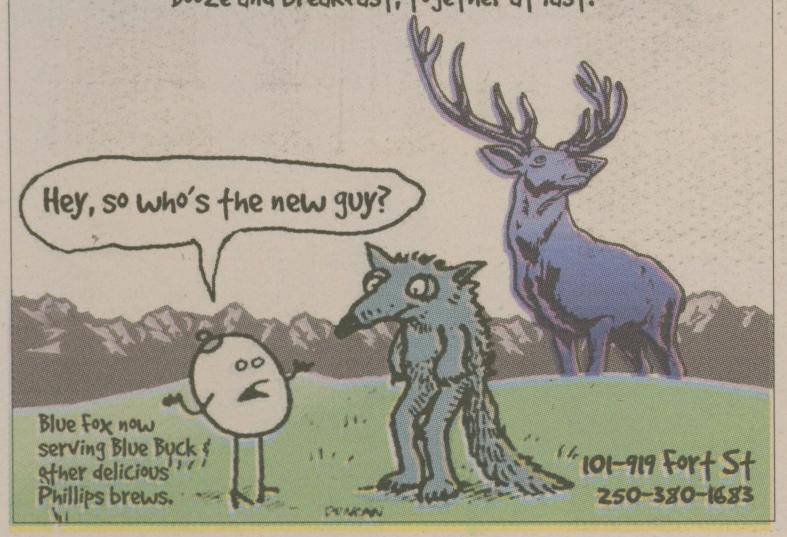


Student debt no picnic to pay back

Zoe Isberg

AHMED·MUMENI PHOTO

Ed Pullman (right) ladles soup on Jan. 21 to protest student debt.

For many post-secondary students, the rising cost of tuition tops their list of grievances. Sure, a loan can cover students while in school, but what about after graduation?

Student debt is at an all time high, with federal loan debt over $13 billion — a number that doesn't consider provincial loans (estimated at $5 to 8 billion), or private debt through lines of credit, credit cards, or family loans. The average student in a four-year degree program will graduate with $32,200 in debt.

According to Shamus Reid, Chair of the B.C. Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), student debt hurts every part of the economy.

"Students who have accumulated such a massive debt load are not able to participate in society in the same way that they have in the past," Reid said, noting that they are less able to afford to buy cars or homes after they graduate because they often need to keep their cost of living low to afford loan payments.

According to TD Canada Trust Financial Adviser Linda Munroe, the repayment of a $35,000 student loan over three years, allowing $2,900 per month for living costs, would require a full-time job paying $25 per hour. The total amount of interest paid over three years would total about $4,800.

Repayment over five years would require a full-time job paying $20 per hour, with interest paid amounting to about $8,616. Repayment over 10 years would require a job paying $15 per hour and a total interest payout of over $5,207.

"When it comes to your finances, we want to look to the long term," Munroe said, explaining that the reality of finding a well-paying job in the first six months after graduation is harder with recent cutbacks, especially for people looking for options within Victoria and other intermediate communities.

And missed payments can give you bad credit. Munroe said it usually takes seven years to clear your credit rating and get back into a position where a bank would approve you for a loan or mortgage.

Yet, unlike the U.S., the Canadian government is doing little to aid rising student debt. The stimulus package proposed by President Barack Obama offers $150 billion towards the Pell Grant program, and an additional $500 million toward student jobs.

"Compared to what the Americans are doing to help their economy, the Canadian government is falling short," said Reid. "Of the $2 billion [the Conservative budget] offers toward campus infrastructure, nothing has been proposed for student debt."

News reviews

YAY!

Fourteen new detox beds opened in Victoria's newly-renovated Eric Martin Pavilion this week.

Another seven post-detox "stabilization" beds were added to the Pembroke Street Withdrawal Management Services Unit, where patients can stay after they finish a five- to 10-day program to recover from drug or alcohol addiction. The new beds are in addition to the city's 17 existing beds, five of which are reserved for youth. The expansion means wait times should drop to one or two weeks, down from the current six-week norm.

YAY!

York University's 45,000 students have finally returned to class, thanks to controversial back-to-work legislation passed by the Ontario government.

While it may seem like a win for the university, who didn't have to increase teachers' wages to get them back to work, a Toronto-based law firm is suing the university on the teachers' behalf for damages incurred during the 12-week teachers strike.

NAY!

An attempt to create a position of "men's commissioner" on the Brandon University Student Union was defeated by just three votes at an annual general meeting.

The women's commissioner on the union was among those to speak against creating a parallel position for men, though she suggested having one person represent both men and women as the "gender equity commissioner," which could be considered at future meetings. The man who brought forward the motion said men are the only group specifically excluded from a liaison relationship with their student union.

- Sam VanSchie

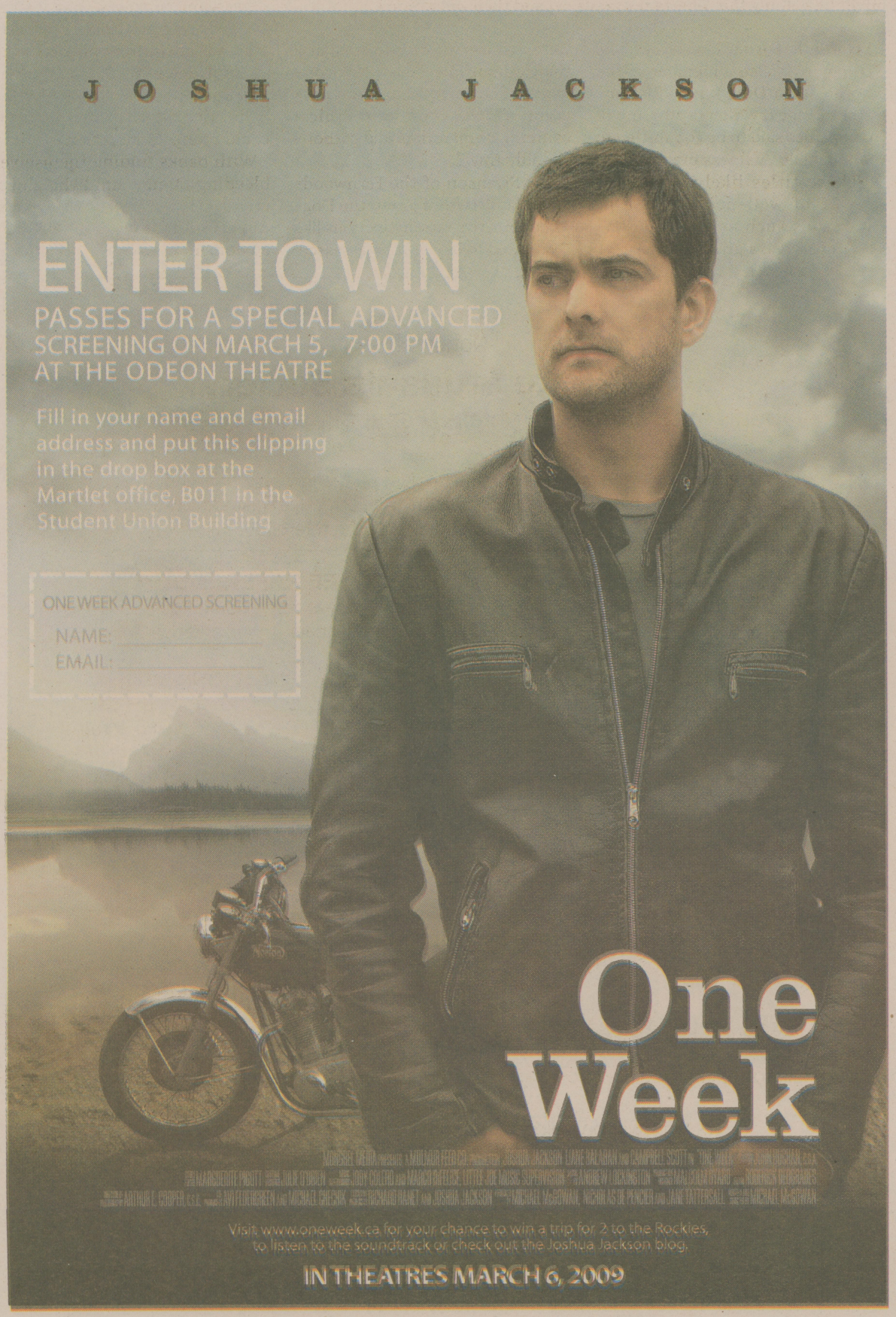
This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

Feb. 4, 1982 — Preliminary results from lower mainland community college students showed that 17 per cent of those who had experienced sexual harassment had been subjected to it by faculty members, according to a survey by the Canadian Federation of Students. UVic AMS Vice-president Donna Morgan criticized the harassment grievance appeals procedures at UVic, saying they were inadequate. She also said that up to 25 per cent of respondents to the survey at other campuses claimed to have been victims of repeated unwanted sexual advances.

Feb. 4, 1999 — Three members of the UVSS were denied entry to a Reform Party fundraiser at the Victoria Conference Centre. All three were escorted from the premises by police after being denied tickets that were on sale to the public. One of the three was arrested and released without charges.

- Cody Willett



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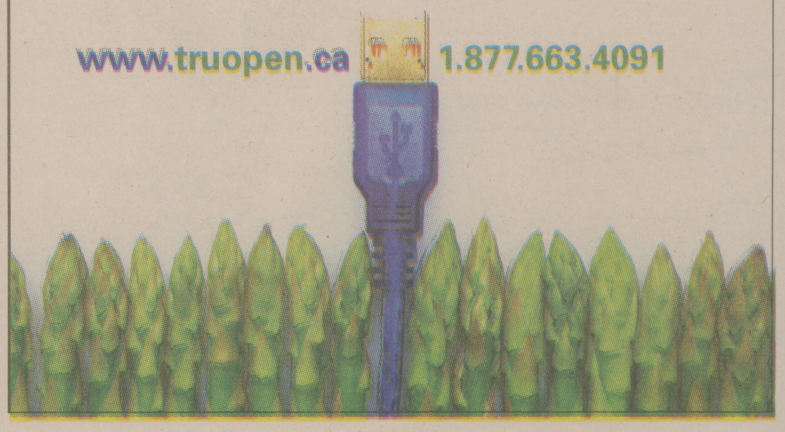

Big banks funding dirty projects

Report exposes savings accounts being used as tools for funding projects that contribute to environmental degradation

Jason Slade

Every time you swipe your debit card to buy organic vegetables or a new tire for your bicycle, you're supporting large-scale environmental degradation. Sound unlikely? Check the logo on your card.

According to San Francisco-based environmental advocacy group Rainforest Action Network (RAN), if your card comes from a major Canadian bank, you can be assured that your financial institution loans and invests your cash in ecologically-destructive projects like oil-sands development and coal-fired power plants.

Even the proposed oil pipeline spanning northern B.C. and the associated tanker traffic in our coastal inlets could be funded by the money in your very own savings account.

A recent report commissioned by RAN looks into the investment by the "Big Five" Canadian banks (RBC, TD, BMO, Scotiabank and CIBC) in ecologically questionable businesses. The results are illuminating: according to the 294-page report, these banks directly loaned or invested $55 billion in 2007 for the production of coal, oil, and gas, resulting in emissions of 625 million tonnes of CO_2.

The report, released in September 2008, details the huge disparity between the monies invested by Canadian banks in projects related to fossil fuel extraction, and those invested in renewable energy ventures (almost 14:1 in 2007).

MARK WORTHING PHOTO

Swipe your bank card, and you just might be helping the Alberta tar sands expand their operations.

> "You can't support an industry as perversely destructive as Alberta's tar-sands and maintain that you have a genuine commitment to the health of the planet."
>
> – Eric Swanson, The Dogwood Initiative

Obviously, not all funds invested by the banks in these projects come from savings and chequing accounts, so RAN has developed a tool to illustrate specifically how personal accounts contribute.

The associated website, climatefriendlybanking.com, allows people to put their own bank accounts to the test. According to the site, a $10,000 savings account with BMO directly finances the release of 1070 kg of carbon dioxide each year. A $10,000 account with the co-operative financial group Desjardins, by contrast, would finance the release of only 40 kg of carbon.

BMO was hesitant to respond to the numbers presented in the RAN report, saying they were "not at liberty to discuss confidential client information."

Reports like RAN's can be worrisome for board members of institutions like national banks. A previous campaign by RAN in the U.S. saw Hollywood celebrities such as Susan Sarandon cutting up Citibank credit cards on TV commercials in protest of the financial company's environmentally-questionable lending practices. The bad publicity forced CitiGroup to adopt ethical lending policies.

The argument could be made that Canadian banks are already more sensitive to environmental issues. For instance, Royal Bank Financial Group has a progressive mission statement and some seemingly impressive credentials. In support of its environmental track record, RBC points to its recent appointment as one of the top-100 sustainable companies on earth by the "Global 100: Most Sustainable Corporations in the World" ranking, as announced at the World Economic Forum last week. The company is also a member of the 2008-2009 Dow Jones Sustainability Index, which is a listing of companies said to be committed to sustainable business practices.

These titles likely come as a result of well-publicized RBC programs such as the Blue Water Initiative, a grant program for water-conservation projects; and their operations-based Environmental Footprint Reduction program, which focuses on ethical sourcing of materials and carbon-friendly travel.

Eric Swanson of the Fernwood-based land-reform group the Dogwood Initiative says distinctions like these need to be critically assessed. He argues that environmental policy standards as set by those in the corporate world are too low.

"The bar is obviously not high enough because the continued financing of projects like Alberta's tar-sands and a genuine concern for our planet's future are mutually exclusive," he said.

Swanson challenges the environmental ethics of organizations like RBC, which, according to the RAN report, financed 33 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions between 2004 and 2008.

"You can't support an industry as perversely destructive as Alberta's tar-sands and maintain that you have a genuine commitment to the health of the planet," Swanson points out.

Many students incorrectly consider the debate around ethical investment to be the domain of those with disposable incomes and mutual funds or other stocks. Swanson himself is switching banks to Vancity, which does not directly finance fossil fuel-related ventures and has a number of branches in Victoria. He adds that this isn't easy for everyone, but that banks ultimately answer to their customers.

Swanson suggests that letters from bank account holders requesting divestment from projects such as Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline — a project underwritten by all five big Canadian banks— could change bank policy.

With banks finding themselves bleeding money amid the global credit crisis, the last thing they can afford to do is start bleeding customers as well.

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Notice of

Graduate Students Society Elections & Fee Referendum

The UVIC Graduate Students Society will be holding a fee increase referendum and Executive Board election on March 4, 5, 6, 2009. All currently registered UVIC graduate students are eligible to run for election, campaign in the referendum and vote.

ELECTION

The following positions are open for nominations: Chair; Director of Finance; Director of Communications; Director of Services; Director of Student Affairs. Term for these positions is April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

Nominations are open:
Feb 4 - Feb 24, 2009

Campaign period:
Feb 25 - March 6, 2009

Nominations packages will be available during the nomination period at the GSS office and on the GSS website.

FEE REFERENDUM

A fee increase referendum has been called by the Graduate Representative Council.

QUESTION:

Are you in favour of increasing the GSS core membership fee by a maximum of $5 to avoid cuts to services currently being offered by the GSS, where the final fee would be determined by membership budget approval at the March GSS General Meeting? YES or NO

Register to campaign for YES or NO sides
Feb 4 - Feb 24, 2009

Campaign period:
Feb 25 - March 6, 2009

VOTING

Polling for the GSS election and referendum will open 9am March 4 and close 4:30 pm March 6.
Polling will be held online only at *http://webvote.uvic.ca*

For more information, nomination forms, or to contact the electoral officer, please visit the GSS office in the Grad Centre, Room 102 or the GSS website: *http://gss.uvic.ca*

Continued from p. 1

Panties combat Burma military

"Burma is one of the most brutal regions you can find in the world today," Lévesque said. "There are so many infractions being carried out on human rights, that it's easier to [list] the rights that haven't been violated than to name the ones that have."

In her lecture, Lévesque discussed not only the military regime's war crimes against women (including using rape as a punishment), but also their tendencies to burn down villages to corral citizens, to force military labour duties on civilians and to murder or arrest those who speak out on the actions.

She said that despite all the failed actions, the women of LAB were able to develop a subversive but hope-filled retribution — sending taboo panties to their oppressors.

"If you keep silent, it just gives more power to those who are doing you wrong," Lévesque said. "Instead of being victims of that [crime], use it to take back control of the issue. We trust the women of Burma to know what's best in fighting this fight, and that's just what they've done."

What happens when the underwear reaches the regime? Lévesque believes the men won't touch it, but that just having it in their presence is traumatic enough. Combine that with the strong roots of military superstitions in Burma, and their knowledge of the attention this is receiving worldwide, and Lévesque says it's as though every county is sending them bad omens — they'll get the message.

Yet Lévesque says the campaign is not only successful in its non-violent power because it highlights the blatant sexualized crimes against these women, but that it also works wonders for keeping up moral.

"This is a very therapeutic action," Lévesque said about mailing the underwear. "It makes the women laugh, it's funny, and many of them write messages on the panties, which is also a great release to them."

In terms of the importance UVic women have in making a difference, Lévesque believes every effort is essential.

"To fight for someone else's right is to fight for my own," Lévesque said. "I can't fully enjoy my home when I know others are homeless, and I can't fully appreciate the gifts my freedom gives me when I know others don't have [those gifts] at all. Standing up for someone who can't stand up for themself is the most important thing you can ever do."

For more information, please visit the pantiesforpeace.ca website, or contact Kent Lane at kjlane@uvic.ca.

PANTY POST

Mika Lévesque encourages every woman to take mailing peace panties into her own hands. But, she says, instead of including your own return address, write in one from a newspaper or another country's embassy — that way, the regime is less likely to return-to-sender, as it will only generate more awareness.

After you've chosen your panties, write a message of solidarity, then mail to one of the following addresses.

In Canada:

Embassy of the Union Myanmar, 85 Range Road, 903 Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8J6

Directly to Burma:

Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman, State Peace and Development Council c/o Ministry of Defence, Naypyitaw, Union of Myanmar

PROVIDED PHOTO

Lulu Yuan, who graduated from UVic in December, was invited to attend the U.S. inauguration last month.

UVic alumni attends inauguration

Portia Yip

From children to the elderly, everyone was able to witness one of the U.S.'s most significant events in history on Jan. 20 — the presidential transition to the first-ever African-American leader. And UVic Commerce student Lulu Yuan was among the 5,000 students attending the University Presidential Inaugural Conference (UPIC).

Yuan, who completed her degree this past December, was invited and nominated to attend UPIC because of her alumni status with the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYCL), in which she attended their Global Young Leaders Conference in 2005.

The conference was a chance for university students to witness democracy in action. UPIC occurs once every four years when a new president is elected. This year, students from across the world flew into Washington D.C. to embrace one of the most memorable events in American history.

"Everything was building up to that day," said Yuan. "Being there made me feel like everyone can make a difference no matter what background you are, or no matter how young you are."

UPIC participants went to seminars, heard two keynote speakers at the conference (General Colin Powell and Al Gore) and attended an inauguration ball.

Students selected to attend UPIC are nominated from the alumni in the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF), the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the International Scholar Laureate Program (ISLP) and from members of honour societies in post-secondary schools. According to Yuan, some students that took part in UPIC were also members of the Golden Key Society.

Due to unorganized events that UPIC had promised, and problems with transportation and accommodation, some students were unsatisfied with their experience. Yuan says she personally would have enjoyed the experience more if she hadn't had a cold.

On Jan. 28, an immediate release comment from Barbara Harris, co-founder of CYLC, stated: "while the vast majority of students who participated in the program had a positive experience, we now know that some said they did not."

Due to massive crowds of standing people, heightened security measures and inevitable circumstances, UPIC students, like most individuals, viewed President Obama's speech on a screen. Despite the problems that occurred, Yuan still describes this as an inspiring atmosphere.

"When he was starting to say his speech everyone was quiet," said Yuan. "Everyone [was] so eager to hear him speak."

The inauguration presents a symbolic moment in the U.S. for an African-American to be sworn into office. According to UVic Political Science professor Janni Aragon, African-American children were able to watch the inauguration of a black man, and the symbolic representation of this is significant.

"African-Americans from all over the country are coming to see this very historic moment, and you see their pride," said Yuan. "It's their moment."

Yuan thinks that youth can get more involved in politics, starting with UVSS elections, as well as by joining groups and organizations.

"You don't have to come from a [political] background to be involved in politics," she said.

Yuan was successful at raising her funds for the ceremony, and credits a number of UVic and Camosun College services, Royal Bank of Canada, Minerva Women's Foundation of B.C., Shanghai Pinghe School and KPMG Victoria for helping her reach her monetary goal. The conference fee was almost $3,000, not including airfare.

Fundraising for the trip was also a great experience for Yuan, but contacting organizations was difficult.

"Some organizations can't make contributions due to certain criteria," said Yuan. "[There was] lots of researching to see what fits."

Yuan begins her career as a chartered accountant this week, and she plans to get involved with more organizations. The inauguration of President Obama marks a new milestone not only for the U.S., but also for the younger generation. Students, like Yuan, who witnessed the inaugural ceremony first-hand can take this memorable event and shape it into their own lives to make a difference in our future.

"It's funny how life turns out. I wanted to work in the UN and international affairs," said Yuan. "Now I finally want to be a chartered accountant."

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ECONOMY WATCH

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

The Conservative budget, announced on Jan. 27, has allocated $2 billion to social housing projects.

Budget doles out the dollars

Federal government turns on the tap for the economy

Adam Duron

The Conservative budget, announced on Jan. 27 in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, has finally answered questions burning in the minds of Canadians since Parliament was suspended in early December.

Members of Prime Minister Harper's government leaked many details of the stimulus package to the public, through a series of announcements and briefings, in an effort to ease the shock of the budget's anticipated $85 billion of new debt between now and 2012-2013.

As the passage of the budget could make or break Harper's government, leaking the debt details allowed Canadians to absorb the shock before hearing what the money will be spent on: $20 billion in personal income tax cuts, including an increase in the basic personal exemption to $10,320 from $9,600; $7 billion for infrastructure; $2 billion for social housing; $1.5 billion in aid for laid-off workers; $1 billion for communities hit hard by the economic downturn; $550 million for farmers; $150 million for the forestry sector; and $160 million for arts and culture, among other priorities.

Funding for social housing and Employment Insurance (EI) improvements represented a nod to the requests and expectations of the opposition parties, which demanded that the budget provide measures to protect those most vulnerable — namely lower-income Canadians and the unemployed. The budget provides for EI premiums to be frozen for two years and $1 billion towards training programs administered through EI, as well as making such programs available to those who don't qualify for EI.

However, NDP leader Jack Layton made it clear from the onset that he would not support any stimulus package the Conservatives proposed. Layton, whose party sought to attain its first shot at power in the Liberal-led coalition government should the Harper government fall on its budget being defeated, condemned the budget.

"It doesn't help the most vulnerable," Layton told reporters. "It's going to leave a lot of people behind."

Any hope for the coalition was destroyed when Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff agreed to support the Conservative budget on the condition that the finance minister submit regular reports on the effectiveness of the government's stimulus spending.

Layton displayed his disappointment by attacking the motivations and incentives of the Liberal leader, going so far as to accuse him of forming a "Harper-Ignatieff coalition."

"You cannot [support the Conservative budget] and pretend to be the alternative to Mr. Harper," fumed Layton.

UVic Political Science professor Dennis Pilon thinks it's little wonder the Liberals supported the budget. Pilon points out that the Liberal party is currently weakened by funding problems and lacklustre party membership, which leaves them unprepared to win an election. If the Liberal party can overcome its shortcomings and ensure the Conservatives fulfilling their budget obligations through the quarterly reports, they may benefit from Ignatieff's decision to support Harper as long as Ignatieff "stays off his high horse," according to Pilon.

"At the level of voters, Ignatieff is in a much stronger position — he speaks to a lot of the traditional elements of Ontario voters who are primarily Liberal-Conservatives," Pilon added.

Although Ignatieff, Layton and the coalition might have taken power if the Harper government had fallen within six months of the last election, Canada's worsening economic situation may make the prospect of leading during a recession appear less than attractive — perhaps, says Pilon, putting Ignatieff in a stronger position as opposition leader in a minority government. However, others oppose that perspective.

"[It's] clear Ignatieff will not be in government leadership in the next few months, and I don't think he wants to be," said Jamie Lawson, another Political Science professor at UVic.

Indeed, Ignatieff's post-budget statements to reporters have allowed him to appear formidable while buying him time to rebuild the Liberal party. Ignatieff declared that his demand for budgetary progress reports means his party is "putting this government on probation" and will "be watching them like hawks to make sure the investments Canadians need actually reach them."

Martha O'Brien, a UVic professor of tax law, sees the potential for the budget to bury its Conservative authors. She says that when the government reduces taxation to encourage consumer spending, there is less revenue available in the future to allow the government to stop borrowing to pay for programs. Since income taxes make up a significant element of government revenues, eventually taxes must be raised to pay back the debt, said O'Brien.

"Every little tax cut costs so much to revenue when you get above the working poor, that [the government is] digging [itself a] deficit hole," O'Brien said.

International Socialists call for radicalism

Scott Daly

For the people who are frustrated with current party politics, UVic's International Socialists club (IS) is here and ready for the revolution.

The club, part of the broader Victoria chapter of the IS movement, is becoming an increasingly popular alternative for many students and other members of the public disillusioned with traditional politics.

Lisa Karoway, an upper-year education student, left what she described as the "controlled nature" of traditional political parties because they seemed unable to find solutions to society's ills.

"I thought that this organization was a path for actual change," said Karoway. "There are so many problems that society faces, like poverty, homelessness, climate change and war that need more than just a change in government. You need to change the whole system."

The IS started up their branch in Victoria in 1991, largely in response to the Gulf War. There are also Canadian branches in Toronto, Ottawa, Halifax, Montreal and Vancouver.

Recently, the group has been especially active in calling on the government to grant American war resisters asylum in Canada. Other activities of the group include distributing information, holding forums, organizing political rallies and campaigns and helping to put out The Agitator, a monthly bulletin that includes current affairs articles as well as opinion pieces.

The organization is also clear to distinguish itself from other incarnations under the socialist banner by calling almost all previous attempts at socialism in Russia, Eastern Europe and China as state-driven capitalist exploitation rather than true socialism.

Valerie Lannon, who joined the IS in 1997, believes that the IS offers something for people interested in radical change.

"Being part of the IS, you learn a lot and it's fun too," said Lannon. "The IS offers a chance to explore theory and practice and I've always found the group to be very democratic, thoughtful and mutually supportive."

Lannon says that the organization in Victoria boasts people from a diverse range of ages and backgrounds including teachers, students and those that are self-employed.

The group calls for an end to capitalism through what it calls a radical collective action where workers seize control of and then redistribute wealth. The IS also supports the end of all forms of discrimination and oppression, including the right of Quebec and Aboriginals to self-determination and describes Canada as an imperialist country that actively participates in the exploitation of much of the rest of the world.

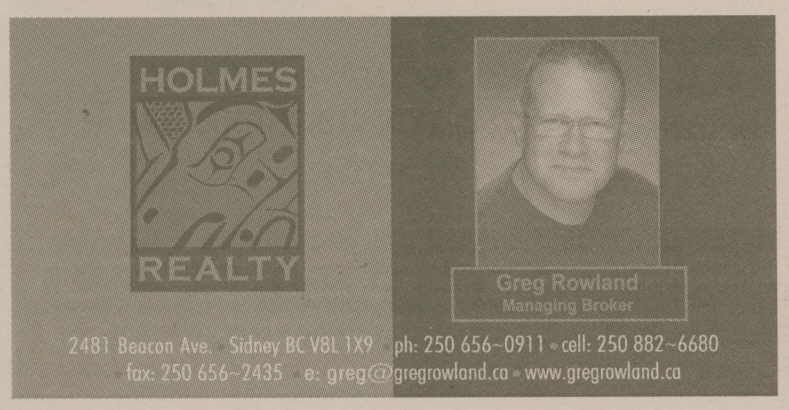
Lannon says the existing political system favours the ruling class, and that it will only be through radical change that the major problems many societies face will finally be resolved.

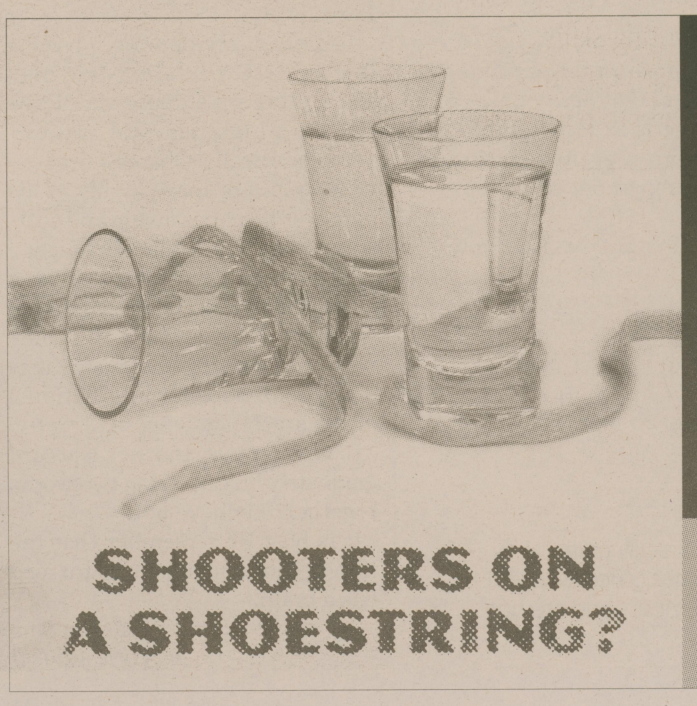
"We want to create a democratic society that puts people first," said Lannon. "All parliamentary political parties, even the NDP, either accept capitalism or make excuses for it, which is the root cause of the problem. Capitalism is not something you can just legislate away."

CIVICS SPIELS

"I've been pretty clear; I hate deficits. I think they take away from future generations, but the changes that we've seen have come too fast, they've been too big, to honestly say to you that we can credibly present a balanced budget ... without doing significant harm to health services and essential education services."

– Premier Gordon Campbell at a Feb. 2 press conference on his decision to run a deficit although his government passed a law making it illegal.





EDITORIAL

Harper sticks students with the tab

Students definitely didn't get a bailout in the 2009 federal budget.

The new budget, tabled on Jan. 27 by the Harper government, definitely didn't have us in mind at all. Maybe it's because the government needs us to pay back our loans if they're going to have the funds to dole out billions of dollars to banks and construction companies, but maybe that's no excuse.

As Canadians struggle with layoffs and cutback hours, it makes sense to do whatever can be done to ease the hardship. That's why the budget commits $1.5 billion to employment insurance and training programs. Too bad to qualify for EI you have to be available for work and looking for it – something students can't be doing if they're full-time in school. So when our shifts or jobs are the first to disappear, students have nothing to rely on but loans.

The budget also promises $1 billion in funding for "clean energy" research, likely to be conducted at universities. Look at the text of the budget, and you'll see the only "clean energy" the government wants to research is nuclear energy and carbon capture and sequestration technology – that way Canada can keep on digging up filth in the tar sands, albeit producing a little less gas.

The lion's share of the budget's money goes to tax cuts and infrastructure projects. For many people, that'll mean some extra padding in the bank account. Paying less tax to the government means we get to help out the economy by spending that extra money – but what if you don't pay taxes?

If you do work and your income was less than $21,612 in 2008, you'll be getting cheques from the government as part of the Working Income Tax Benefit – unless you were a full-time student for more than a semester. Again, if you're a student, no stimulus money for you.

At the least money allotted for infrastructure projects keeps your buddy in the construction industry paid. The only problem with these funding commitments is that provinces, municipalities and universities with their hands out have to come up with matching funds in many cases. It's just not possible to quickly stimulate anything without everyone piling up more debt.

And students know all about how much fun piling up debt is. On Jan. 21, student debt in Canada reached a record of $13 billion. So when the budget gave no commitment to increase student grants or extended interest relief periods, we all did a little happy dance — or not. As if that news wasn't good enough, the budget also managed to avoid transferring additional money for post-secondary to cash-strapped provinces that will likely try to save money through freezes or claw backs to post-secondary funding. Get ready for tuition fees to go up... again.

Yeah, students didn't really fare as well as most everyone else did in this budget – not because we didn't get anything, but because we've been stuck with the tab.

The cost of this economic stimulus is going to be $64 billion of government debt in two years. Optimistic projections add up to $85 billion within five years. Five years is how long the finance minister says it will take to stop borrowing money to run the government. It's taken nearly 10 years to pay that much down on Canada's half-trillion dollar total debt during a great economic climate.

Factor the economic fallout of climate change in with the shrinking tax pool left in the wake of retired boomers, and that heavy dose of public debt is going to feel like a kick in the teeth. Students didn't create this mess. Older generations want to borrow against our future to ease their hurt while we suffer without a scrap of our own.

But it's not like we couldn't see it coming – after all, we don't vote and therefore don't matter.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 12:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

LOLBUDGET

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Kickboxers confused

Re: "Students reach for kickboxing titles"

The recent kickboxing article was very interesting, and the athletes should be praised for promoting their sport. However, in attempting to shine a positive light on kickboxing, one of the athletes said that "Boxing is more about the money ... But in Kickboxing, there is a lot more respect."

In amateur boxing, money is a non-issue. Also, kickboxers cannot claim ownership of the word "respect." In both amateur and professional boxing respect for team members and opponents is most often in great supply.

Brian W. Zelley
Community member

Obama criticism wrong

Re: "Happy Barack Obama Day"

The words "change" and "hope" have been kicked around more than a hacky sack at a Woodstock Festival recently, but what Ms. Marsh wrote about the newly-elected American president is absurd.

Politics is like of a fine game of chess and to get mass votes in present-day America requires an appeal of "the lowest common denominator." Those are the votes that will ultimately decide the Presidency.

Obama, in my opinion, played a fine game. Expectations are high but I think presidents should be put on a high pedestal and observed critically. Obama's first executive orders speak highly of his surge for bi-partisanship and anti-corruption. While Lincoln fought a civil war and slavery, Obama faces a financial crisis and international disunity. This is where the comparisons come in; Obama serves as a beacon of hope for international unity, much like Lincoln.

Is Obama just another Harvard graduate who can string two words together? I believe not.

It is best we remember that the lowest common denominator also has a brain.

Kelvin Sum
UVic Student

Message to caf manager

Re: "Caf food fails"

Instead of making excuses, why don't you just fix the issues? If someone gets sick from improper food temperatures then everybody suffers. FoodSafe matters.

Better trained staff and more updated techniques would prove to be a more proactive way to go.

Save the Caf and save your jobs.

M. Catharina
Community member

Life is awesome, deal with it

Re: "Inescapable rise of the "tweenybopper"

We all love music. Songs allow us to relate and share interests, and concerts allow thousands of people to enjoy the same songs at the same time. The '60s experienced the generation of love, and artists of the time sang with love. Artists during the '60s and '70s sang about the "here and now" of their time, but they did it with amazing attitudes.

Today, music is produced only for profit, not for enjoyment. At the turn of the '60s decade, musicians got together to perform at Woodstock in 1969. The turnout was so huge that the fence was cut to make it a free event.

If everyone could grow up and simply do what they love doing, we could experience a decade worth remembering. Forget about money and focus on reality, possibilities, and enjoyment. Happiness is not a solo mission, and that's the flaw of the decade. We need a day, perhaps a holiday, to get half a million people to take a step back from everyday life and have fun doing the same thing. When was the last time 500,000 people appreciated the same moment?

Even if we don't get a free concert, can we at least agree that life is awesome?

Kyle Gillich
UVic student

Parking tickets unfair at UVic

I returned to my vehicle after class on Tuesday, and found a parking ticket. I looked on the dash and there was my legal parking stub. The ticket said it was for 9:37. My stub said it was there from 9:29.

Dumbfounded, I went to Campus Security. It was nonchalantly explained to me that I would have to file an appeal and include payment for the fine to begin the appeal process. I took issue with this rule, pointing out that there was a clear and certain error on the part of the parking officer. I was told that I would have to explain to myself why the officer did not see the ticket on my dash. After debating this point for five minutes or so, I became extremely frustrated.

Basically, it is my onus to explain why the parking officer screwed up. I have to pay the fine and hope that the committee rules on my favour.

If this isn't clear perversion of process and rules, then I don't know what is. After talking to a number of students who have appealed their tickets, I found out that not one of them successfully challenged a ticket, even when they were clearly in the right (like when the parking rules changed to 24 hours with no warning). To top things off, UVic does not allow you to graduate until you pay your parking tickets. Way to go UVic — extort money from your students over and above the ridiculous tuition fees.

Moral of the story: UVic is a corrupt institution and I should be taking the bus. However, out of curiosity, to anyone reading this: have you ever successfully challenged a parking ticket at UVic?

Jared Nyberg
UVic student

Happy? Sad?
Enraged? Engaged?

Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community. Letters must be submitted by e-mail, include your real name and affiliation to UVic, and have "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited.

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Martlet (SUB B 011)
P.O. Box 3035
University of Victoria
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3P3

Newsroom: 250.721.8360
Editor: 250.853.3206
Business: 250.721.8361
Advertising: 250.721.8359
Fax: 250.472.4556
www.martlet.ca

MELODRAMATIC MUSINGS

Coming down from relationships

Will Johnson

MARC JUNKER GRAPHIC

The end of a relationship can be like a bad hang-over.

Often you're left feeling fragile, like you've been battered around mercilessly and can't quite remember what happened. Last you knew, things were awesome — life was fun. Now, you groggily blink your eyes each morning and wonder why you even bother waking up at all.

The problem is, relationship hangovers can seem to last forever.

After a heavy night of drinking, all I really need is good, long sleep and a couple hours to laze around my living room in my boxer shorts. Usually, by mid-afternoon I've shaken off the nausea and I've steeled-up the courage to venture out for groceries.

Or to resume drinking, whichever seems more pressing at the time.

But sometimes you'll find yourself months out of a draining, chaotic drama-fest of a relationship, and still feel weak and fucked up, like at any moment you may run out of the room and vomit. With relationship hangovers, people just don't give themselves recovery time.

I've seen too many couples break up, only to spend the proceeding months hopelessly entangled in each other's lives, somehow still spending every waking moment with their former flame. It's especially complicated when there are mutual friends involved, or even families.

That's why I propose relationship rehab.

Sometimes it's not an option, but the best thing to do at the end of a relationship is to get the fuck out of Dodge. Do you feel like you need to have a 'talk'? Do you have unresolved emotions, unanswered questions? Forget them. Nothing is accomplished by weepy, long-winded dialogues about each other's feelings, which usually spiral out of control into confusing make-out sessions or break-up sex.

The number-one solution to all your problems? Time.

So when the significant other calls you up to propose a chat, just yell, "Enabler!" and hang up the phone. It will be best for both of you.

The real trouble comes with living arrangements. A friend of mine recently found herself living with an ex for months, anxiously waiting for him to find a new place. Though they'd been friends before, the ensuing months hobbled their relationship, forcing them into lengthy fights and weeks of awkward silences. By the time he moves out, their former friendship may no longer be salvageable.

My sister always seemed to get the hang of breaking up. While I'd mope and cry over ex-girlfriends for years at a time, she seemed to spit out boyfriends like pieces of gum. Once it was over, it was over. She'd refuse to talk to them for a while — six months, maybe a year — and then one day she'd call them up for coffee and it would be like nothing ever happened.

I'm jealous of that.

So next time you find yourself caught up in sticky break-up proceedings, just turn off your phone for a while. Make a point to find your own space. And of course, make sure you drink lots of water.

LETTERS

Mitigating harm a good start

I never thought I would say this, but kudos to the Downtown Victoria Business Association for working with a community organisation (AIDS Vancouver Island) to address a social issue.

It is my hope that all downtown businesses and residents will get on board with the needle disposal kit program.

As a community, it is the responsibility of all of us to get our hands dirty and make our city a better place. With that said, it must always be remembered that fixed-site needle exchanges and safe consumption sites are proven to decrease the number of dirty needles left out in public. But until VIHA and the Victoria council commit to make these necessary health services a reality, at least someone is doing something productive and proactive.

Daryl Elving-Klassen
Community member

Hateful language is not `casual'

Re: "Queen's wants students to watch their language"

I find it disturbing that one could refer to oppressive language as being "casual," as if somehow it is okay when not overheard. Having language challenged by a hired advocate as "patronizing and demeaning"?

The author wants it to be the victim turning around to challenge homophobic language? Should the oppressed really be the ones held responsible to address their oppressor?

In the hypothetical example, the author admits that she may turn on an advocate with a renewed barrage of slurs. I believe this point alone illustrates the flaw in the argument – is it safe? However, not only is a verbally or otherwise violent reaction to a challenge something to consider, what if that advocate is challenging her for more reasons than just a paid job? The author should rethink her point, because really, her privilege is showing.

Sam J. Johnson
Community member

Obama and gay rights

The new president may not be quite as open minded as we thought

Cameron Russell

I finally got to begin taunting my Canadian friends on Jan. 20.

I told them I can't believe they live in a country run by conservatives, religious ideologues and right-wingers.

I'm glad I'm from a progressive nation like the U.S., whose citizens have elected their first visible minority head of state, and brought issues like gay rights, women's rights and civil rights into the voting booth. What joy!

I can't say that I got Obama elected (though I did happily vote for him). The people who did work hard to get him elected were, not unexpectedly, his political base — students, women, people of color and queer groups. The latter, I think, feel more than most groups that now is their time for hope, their time for a redesign of society that will finally be inclusive, open and peaceful toward lifestyles outside the heterosexual norm.

Laws will be enacted, protections will be made and redefinitions of institutions once thought to be intractable may finally come about.

Barack Obama was the candidate of inclusion. The question now is, will he be the president of change like so many hope, or will he simply make small gestures of change to placate the still-polarized country he now runs?

Obama has made many, many public shows of solidarity with the gay community — solidarity which has been welcomed. However, many of those shows were at best tainted by also showing bipartisanship.

His inauguration did include an invocation by Gene Robinson, an openly-gay bishop of the Episcopal Church. But it also included an invocation by Rick Warren, a pastor who publicly and repeatedly supported Proposition 8 in California — a ballot initiative to ban gay marriage.

Obama has made huge efforts to include an LGTB marching band at his inauguration, but he also peppered the proceedings with constant prayer, reminding the viewers of his Christian background.

I don't believe that being a Christian automatically pits you against the gay movement, but, while watching the inauguration, I couldn't help feeling that the entire procedure was an extravagant gesture to his supporters on both sides of the fence and not, as I had originally hoped, a symbolic ceremony of inclusion that would set the tone of his presidency.

President Obama does not support gay marriage. On what could be called the flagship issue of the gay rights movement, he stands in line with John McCain in that he opposes gay marriage but also opposes a constitutional amendment prohibiting it.

They believe the same thing. It could be argued that that's a public necessity, a false showing of sameness to shore up the right.

I'm not so sure.

The popular opinion of self-described church-going Christians is that they oppose the right of same-sex couples to marry, and President Obama is, without a shadow of a doubt, a church-going Christian.

He is a Democrat, but Democrats have been cowardly in supporting this fundamental issue of human rights, giving halfhearted alternatives, like States-Rights and the separate-but-equal civil union option.

> "President Obama does not support gay marriage. On what could be called the flagship issue of the gay rights movement, he stands in line with John McCain."

As it stands now, it looks like same-sex marriage will not be on the agenda for the first term. However, there is some good news. President Obama has vowed to oppose the Defence of Marriage Act (DOMA), end Don't-ask-Don't-tell (regarding homosexuality in the U.S. military) and federalize some of the rights of same-sex partnerships.

Campaigning on the "hope and change" ticket may have been a politically-astute and marketable choice, but the promises (both real and implied) to the Democratic base will stick with President Obama throughout his term.

I'm not saying that the President is going to fold to the whims of the right wingers, but simply that it's too early to tell how far he'll go in support of gay rights across the country.

All we can do now is wait, watch and, as the man asked us to, hope.

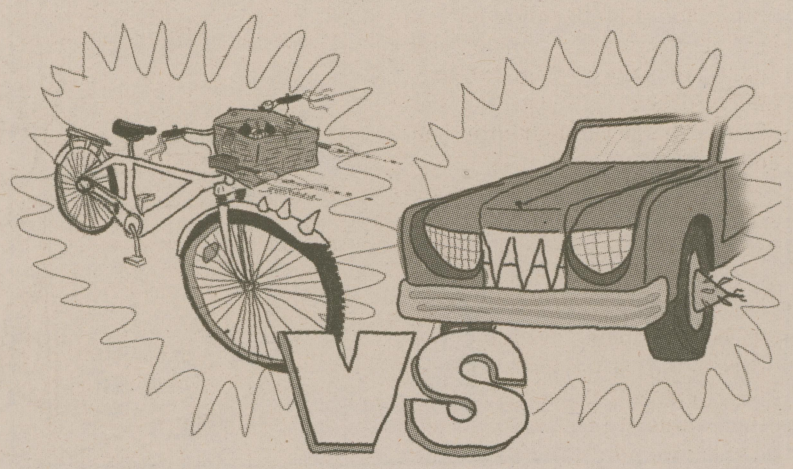
WAR OF WORDS

Automobiles versus bicycles: who will win?

Will Johnson and Kailey Willetts

The clash was inevitable. While some roads in Victoria have clearly-defined bicycle lanes, others have nothing more than a thin shoulder. Each day, cars and bikes fight for dominance on the road. Some drivers are furious to have these tiny pseudo-vehicles clogging the way during their commute, while lowly bikers fear for their lives as enormous SUVs thunder by.

It prompts the question: who will win — bikes or cars?



GLEN O'NEILL GRAPHIC

Kailey:

I was driving down Shelbourne last semester, and was almost hit by a bike. Yup, you read that right. I didn't almost hit the bike, the bike almost hit me.

> "I have no problem with bikes. I think commuting by bike is an awesome idea, but most of Victoria is just not set up for it."
>
> -Kailey Willetts

The cyclist, you see, thought it would be a good idea to ride down the wrong side of the road at night, in dark clothing, and not stop before crossing. I was turning right when he came sailing across the intersection and almost collided into my hood.

I have no problem with bikes. I think commuting by bike is an awesome idea, but much of Victoria is just not set up for it. Bikes aren't cars, but they aren't pedestrians. They need their own space and their own rules. Roads and sidewalks were designed for other purposes.

Will:

You're right. We've got the Galloping Goose Trail and a half-decent bike lane along Foul Bay. But for the most part, bicycles aren't welcome in Victoria.

When I bike along Hillside, many cars are respectful and either maneuver around me or momentarily veer into the next lane. But without fail, there are always the cars that whiz by within centimetres, or honk at me as they hurtle by.

It's a form of bullying. Some people think they deserve the space just because they're bigger, heavier and noisier than I am. Why does a car have any more right to the road than me? A bike, legally speaking, is just as much a vehicle as an automobile. Just because it's a momentary inconvenience for you, I should be strong-armed off the road?

Kailey:

It's more than just a momentary inconvenience. On some roads, like Richmond, there is only one lane. There isn't a lane to pass in, and many drivers don't want to pass a bike on a single-lane road for fear of hitting the biker. Most people have cars to save them time. Bikes simply cannot keep up with cars, and should not be on the road behaving like them.

Will:

So just because we can't keep up, we should be banned from roads like Richmond? When did the roads become a private, exclusive club? This is a type of class system, where people are being victimized for not being able to afford a car. We shouldn't be treated like second-class citizens. We have just as much a right to get where we're going.

Also, if you're not comfortable passing a biker, how much time is it really costing you? So you have to slow down for a couple blocks, and all of a sudden your trip is 30 seconds longer. Oh, the horror.

What ever happened to patience and courtesy?

Kailey:

Yup, you sure do have just as much right to get where you're going. But guess what, they invented this thing called public transit. And guess what else, you can put your bike on the front of the bus.

So if you have no other choice but to take Richmond, then throw your bike on there. I have absolutely no problem with people using roads where they can be safely passed and don't cause a traffic hazard. But when I am almost getting hit by one, or when cars are passing bikes inches from their handle bars, that's dangerous for everyone.

There are no regulations on how bikes use the road. Do they behave like cars? Sometimes. Do they behave like pedestrians? Sometimes. And sometimes they just make their own rules. It's kind of annoying and unfair when, after having taken the time to safely change lanes and pass a bike, that bike cruises through all the cars when you get stopped at a red light and waits at the front.

You can get a ticket for driving too slow because it's a hazard. Why can't you get a ticket for biking too slow? If you want to be on the road, then you should have to follow the rules just like everyone else.

Unfortunately, this city has made it hard for bikers. And I don't blame the bikers for this. I road my bike to work an entire summer when I lived in Quebec, because the roads were set up for that. When the City of Victoria gets on board with the movement toward cycling, I'll be more than happy to join in.

Will:

I agree that bikers sometimes don't follow the rules, but you can say that about any mode of transportation.

> "Are drivers sometimes cautious and courteous? Yes. Are they sometimes road-rage-ravaged assholes who are a little too friendly with the gas pedal and their horn? Yes."
>
> -Will Johnson

Are drivers sometime cautious and courteous? Yes. Are they sometimes road-rage-ravaged assholes who are a little too friendly with the gas pedal and their horn? Yes.

Yeah, I usually throw my bike on the front of the bus. But if it's a question of waiting 20 minutes for the next one, then I'll usually just take off on my bike. It's a nice way to get some exercise, and it's a cheap, fun and environmentally-friendly way of getting where I'm going.

If that pisses off a couple drivers, so be it.

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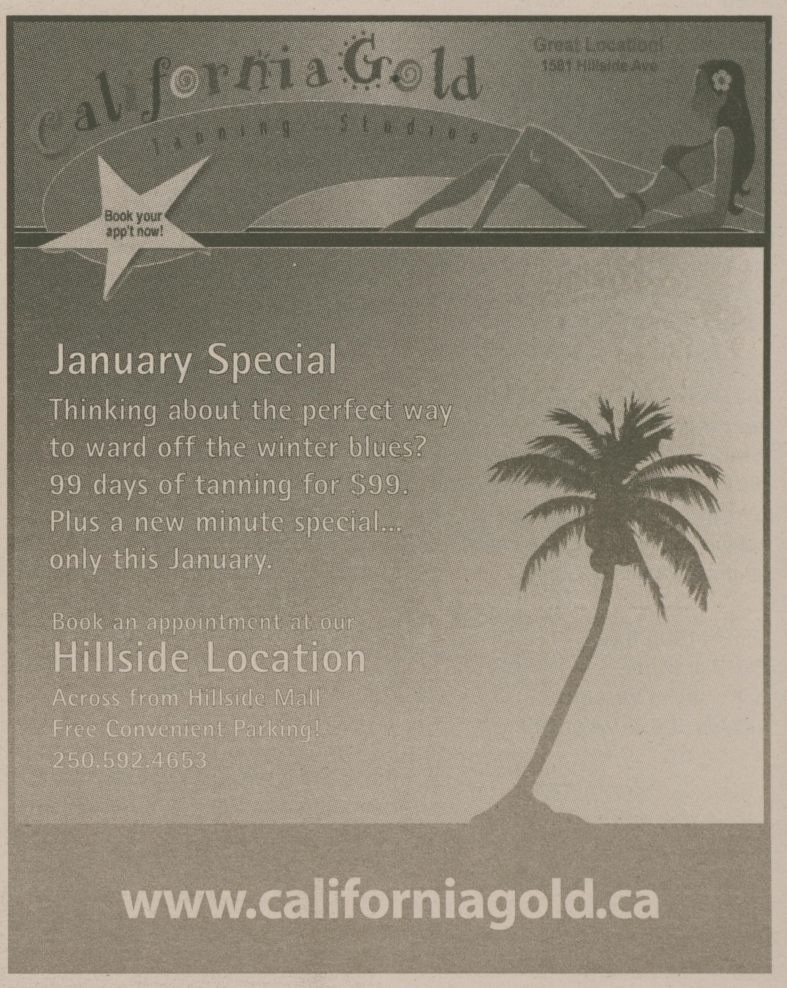

Revealing the mystery of the ladyboner

Danielle Pope

There's nothing like watching a hot sex scene to make you jizz in your pants — at least if you're a guy.

But a recent article in the New York Times titled, "What Do Women Want?" has caused a stir in the science world, daring to question what causes the ever-elusive "ladyboner."

Recent studies have shown that women are attracted to much, much more than even we ever knew.

Whether it's a naked man sucking on a woman's neck, two women pulsating against each other, a pair of men connected in coital bliss, or two monkeys screeching into the jungle, science has proven that women, in fact, want it all.

I'll admit, it's pretty easy to feel the blood rushing to my nether regions when I spot a pair of luscious lips or a set of sculptured muscles — or even just when watching a new Rihanna music video.

But what's more surprising is when a horny little troupe of rabbits does the trick, or when I go loopy for someone who cleans my kitchen.

According to the NYT article, however, that's not so unusual for women. A researcher from Queen's University decided to find out just what did the trick for the different sexes, by attaching a "plethysmograph" over the penis or inside the vagina of a variety of subjects to measure blood flow, then giving the subjects a keypad to indicate their arousal at a variety of scenes.

Men and women, both straight and gay, were shown short clips of animal sex, human heterosexual sex, homosexual sex, solo masturbation, a chiseled man walking naked on a beach and a well-toned woman doing calisthenics in the nude. The results revealed just how much we don't know about ourselves.

While the men responded the same way genitally and through the keypad (heterosexual men were aroused by heterosexual or lesbian sex, and by the female images, while gay males were aroused oppositely), the women may as well have been disconnected from their heads to their vaginas.

Regardless of sexual orientation or keypad indication, they showed "strong and swift genital arousal" when the screen offered a variety of sex scenes, no matter the gender or, at times, species.

The study showed that hetero women reported less excitement than their vaginas showed in watching female sex, while lesbian women reported less excitement than their vaginas showed when watching female-male sex. Whether straight or gay, the women claimed almost no arousal whatsoever while staring at the monkeys — but their vaginas revealed more. The researchers also found that whether or not they reported it, women were aroused when listening to sounds of monkeys mating, as well as sounds of a rape scene (arousal that some researchers cite as a defense mechanism to reduce potential bodily harm).

Weird? Maybe not.

Another related study in the NYT article made the following point: while drugs like Viagra work well for men, the female-equivalent drugs have been proven less effective or not effective at all for increasing female desire because while they work to intensify blood flow to the genital area, they can't affect mental status. In other words, women decide when and where we're ready — despite what our bodies are capable of.

"The female body looks the same whether aroused or not," said Marta Meana, a professor of psychology at the University of Nevada, in the NYT article. "The male, without an erection, is announcing a lack of arousal. The female body always holds the promise, the suggestion of sex — a suggestion that sends a charge through both men and women."

Meana also suggested that her research has indicated that, in comparison with men, women's erotic fantasies center less on giving pleasure and more on getting it. For women, "being desired is the orgasm," in that women's desire is not relational, but narcissistic. In other words, we feel most turned on when we note ourselves as the erotic object.

Sure, it's great to feel sexy after a night of getting all glammed up, but I don't normally dream of myself when I masturbate — do I? Then again, science seems to have proven that women have been largely disconnected from what really turns us on.

As the recent spin-off Tyee article, "Wresting with the Ladyboner," pointed out, Freud's biggest query over a century ago was trying to figure out what the hell it is that we want: "The great question that has never been answered and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my 30 years of research into the feminine soul, is: what does a woman want?"

Well, thanks for all your help, Freud. Turns out, maybe even we don't know.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

Clearly men and women are different, but just because our arousal is less straightforward doesn't mean it's a "problem," as the research and the NYT article seems to suggest.

We women are a Pandora's box full of surprises, and it's that mystery in itself that keeps us all wanting (to know) more.

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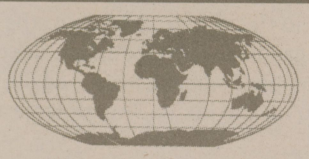

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House of Mirrors

A look at how journalism affects our perceptions of the world

Story by Kim Magi
Illustrations by Tyler Longmire

If journalism was a retail store, "buyer beware" signs would be up everywhere. You would want to believe there was truth in what was presented to you, but how could you ever be sure?

"It's nothing less than shocking when Lindsay Lohan bounds into Da Silvano, an Italian restaurant at the bottom of Sixth Avenue in Manhattan. She's 40 minutes late for lunch; for anybody with even a glancing familiarity with the 20-year-old actress and sometime pop singer, this particular fact does not shock. What is shocking is that she materialized at all," starts the article titled "La Vida Lohan" in the September 2006 issue of Elle.

Somebody has a grudge, I thought to myself as I read this. On the other hand, if that's what happened, you want to report on it (as long as you fully expect the backlash).

To report, or not to report

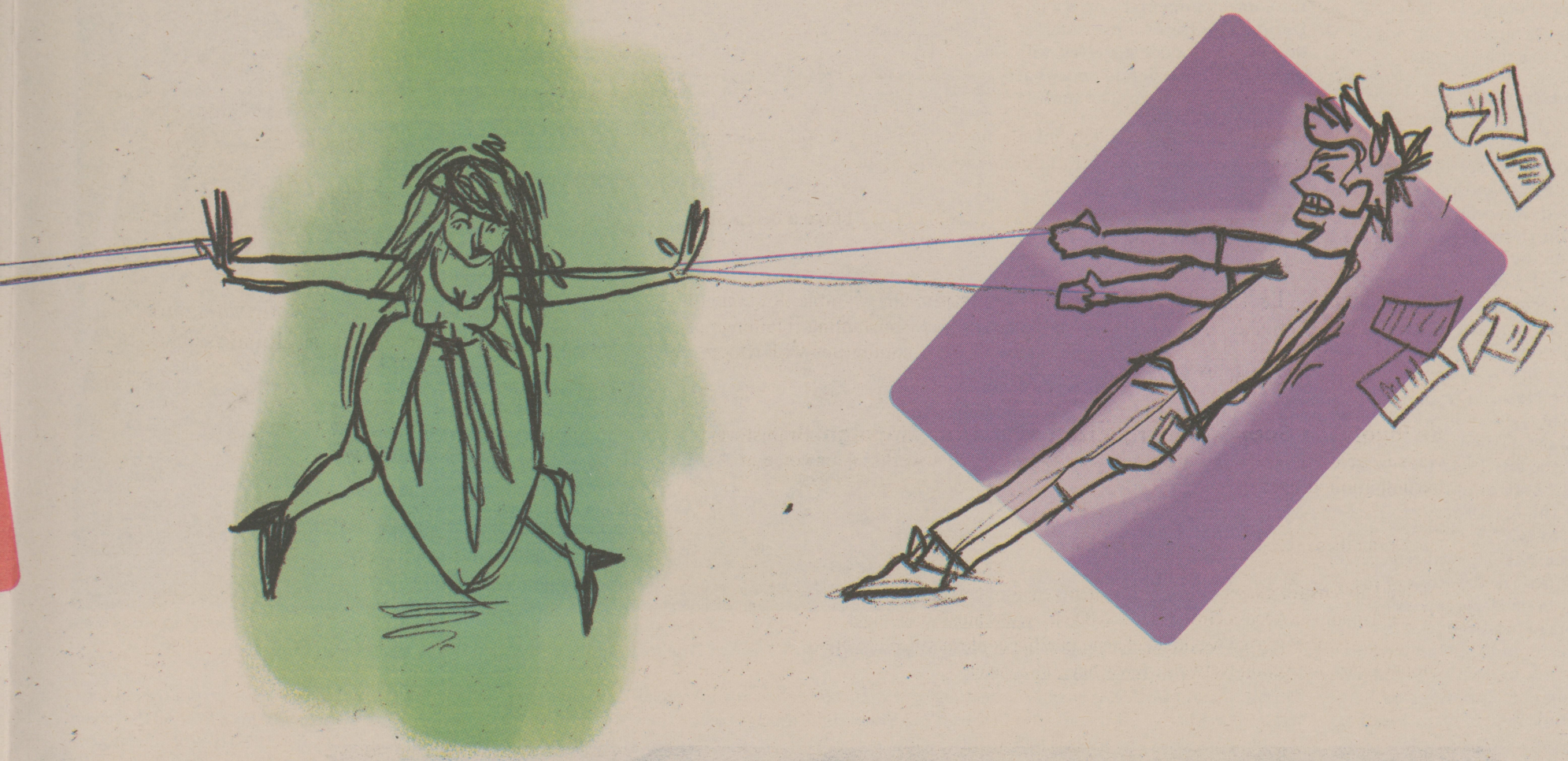
Reporting on celebrities like Lindsay Lohan is a favourite of tabloids and respected magazines. I've learned a few tactics that writers can use to make their stories of the same person diverse. The quotes, description and background information can all make for a fresh angle. But as the writer may be accommodating a particular publication, some details may be left out of the subject's image. The trouble is, you'll never know what was left out.

For some reason, I'm attracted to reading about the same people over and over again. Just over two years ago, Barack Obama was profiled in TIME magazine, with the headline: "The Fresh Face." Arguably, the U.S. President could be profiled again with the same headline, but the story would be completely different. Standing in the line-up at Thrifty Foods in the days leading up to the election, I counted at least five magazines with Obama on the cover, ranging from Men's Health to People. Each magazine had different angles, quotes and information on the inside, but all were about the same man.

John Threlfall, pop culture expert and editor of Monday Magazine, has his own theories on why this trend is so popular in current media.

"I think it's just about branding and sales: celebrities as the human equivalent of a new car (Will Farrell as the Cary Grant for a new generation), even though the brands are failing and people just aren't as interested anymore," says Threlfall. "Think of celeb culture like McDonald's — it's a mass-market product out there for people to consume, if they so choose."

Another reason I love reading these pieces of creative nonfiction could be that profiles are only about attention-grabbing people. Yet, it does make us question why some people get magazine covers while the rest of us grovel in our misery. While these magazines help to drive the status of celebrities and politicians, it is ultimately we who buy the publications and support this status.



"For the better part of the last century, we've been led to believe that celebrity lives are far more interesting, glamorous and exciting than our own," Threlfall says. "When in fact (as we so often see) their lives are just as screwed up as our own: addictions, broken marriages, manufactured personas, closeted lives, etc. Does that make our own lives seem better — or at least equal — in comparison? [We think] 'Lindsay Lohan's in rehab, so it's okay that I go in too,' or 'if Nicole can divorce Tom, then there's hope for me dumping my lame-ass husband.' Perhaps."

While I love my Cosmopolitan, it's not the first place I go to look for depth and a good read. That said, it's intrinsically interesting to see what causes contrasting profiles on the same person in different publications. The author may have caught the subject on a bad day, or the author went in with a bias. Any writer worth her socks knows that you're not supposed to have a bias when writing a story, but when you're rescheduling an interview for the fourth time and the person you're interviewing has been known for bad behaviour, sometimes it's hard.

"I think it's entirely legitimate for a reporter to report his experience covering a certain individual," says Sean Holman, editor of the Victoria-based Public Eye Online. "It says something about the person being covered. "

Our own worst enemies

As much as the Elle profile of Lohan slams her in the beginning, the rest mostly allows Lohan to speak for herself. All the writer asks at one point in the interview is "Any big plans for the next year?" and Lohan goes off about how she wants to go to Iraq with Hillary Clinton, and go to a gun range, then speaks about how she watched a whole bunch of videos about Charles Manson. It seems that Lohan readily gives diamond quotes that will start the next rumour — but is this journalism unfiltered?

Continuing on the Lohan train (wreck), another profile appeared in the February 2006 issue of Vanity Fair titled: "Confessions of a Teenage Movie Queen." Maybe it was because Lohan trusted Vanity Fair, or maybe the writer was that damn good, but this profile of Lohan received the most attention to date. During the interview, Lohan admitted that her father abused her when she was growing up, that she used drugs and she was bulimic for a time. The writer, Evgenia Peretz, narrates the piece with her opinion of the actress.

"She's genuinely fun to be with — affectionate, unguarded, mischievous and a little loopy," Peretz writes.

But even that wasn't enough to curtail the subsequent backlash that Peretz received from Lohan post-publication. Lohan released a statement to Teen People magazine: "The words that I gave to the writer for Vanity Fair were misused and misconstrued, and I'm appalled with the way it was done."

Peretz must have anticipated that backlash. But the question becomes: was she showing the real Lohan, or was she trying to stir up publicity for herself and the publication she works for? Ultimately, the reader will never know.

"How much of it is constructed and how much is reality?" Threlfall says, asserting that we, as readers, must ask this question. "[Is the profile] fair and accurate or is it a simple reflection of [the subject] as a busy person?"

Every time I do an interview and get one of those golden "money quotes," I'm still wondering if it will get me sued (or at least an angry letter) if I print it. How do writers know where to draw the line?

Following the Lohan controversy, Vanity Fair issued its own statement: "Evgenia Peretz is one of our most reliable reporters. Every word Lindsay Lohan told her is on tape. Vanity Fair stands by the story." Of course, using a tape recorder can rescue a writer from a lawsuit (so can having a successful publication backing you up), but another decision the writer has to make is whether or not they're willing to make the subject look great or terrible depending on what he or she says.

Understanding ethics

Quotes can be used to illustrate a point the writer wants to make, but they can also be used as bookends to misconstrue what the subject meant.

In the Vanity Fair article, Lohan is quoted as saying, "I was making myself sick," followed by the author's narrative of saying she was referring to bulimic episodes. Post-publication, Lohan denied she was speaking about bulimia, but Peretz stood by it. Now, it's left up to the reader to decide what to believe.

The rule many journalists try to follow when writing stories is to think about the point we want to make, then use the quotes to add colour. But paraphrasing can become dangerous. Like other writers and journalists, I want my contacts to be able to trust me. Misrepresentation is a sure-fire killer in the matter of keeping your contacts, and trust, on both sides, can be hard to come by in this industry. However, that's not to say that all writers care about the welfare or appearance of their contacts.

"There are some journalists who would go in the opposite direction," Holman says regarding journalistic respect. Through legal documents and speaking with other people, he explains, you don't necessarily even need an interview with the profile subject in order to do a profile on them.

So, you've finally completed interviews for a profile. You set out your notebook and transcribe from your voice recorder and are ready to start writing. Then the first question enters your mind: what do I include and exclude?

Some parts of the interview are easy to include — the quotes, the general information and the background story of the subject. But it can be a struggle on how to expand from there. From the Lohan perspective, the writers all had the same general information when they sat down to write, but while some chose to focus on a sweet and innocent persona, others dwelled on how that has changed since Lohan's teenagehood.

However, both magazines word their "facts" differently. Andrew Goldman, the author of the Elle article, said: "Starting when she was 11-years-old, with The Parent Trap ... [Lohan] has been the most consistently watchable actress of her generation, and until recently, has hewn close to the persona created by her Disney films: the feisty, sweet, not-especially-popular girl who blunders through all the rites of adolescence with equanimity. Her tabloid profile, however, suggests that perhaps the dewy innocence she brought to the screen is a testament to how deft an actress she actually is."

Goldman uses a technique that is a chosen favourite among profile writers — the compliment-mixed-with-an-insult sentence. He tries to play up Lohan's acting abilities, comparing the characters she plays that make her likable to her real life persona.

In the Vanity Fair piece, Peretz goes in-depth about Lohan's troubled life, so she only gives us a snippet of comparison: "One would never suspect anything about the personal drama from seeing the 11-year-old Lohan on-screen, playing identical twin sisters – one British, one American – in the 1998 remake of The Parent Trap."

It's necessary to include such information, because of the demographic of both magazines. The median age of Elle magazine readers is 33, while the average age of Vanity Fair readers is 40. The decision of what not to include is now harder: should the writer talk about Lohan's abusive father? Will any readers care about who her ex-boyfriend is? When deciding what extra information to include, the writer is always forced to look through the scope of the publication they're writing for — while some information could be useful, in the end the readers might not care, and so it doesn't make the cut.

A writer's world

Profiles depend on the writer, the publication he or she is writing for and the interview itself. Looking at various examples of profiles on Lindsay Lohan, it's easy to tell that although it's largely up to the writer to show how a subject is portrayed, the subject must do his or her part too. Showing up for an interview 40 minutes late is not going to keep a journalist in a good mood. But while it's clear that many publications will back what their writers print, there may be more going on behind the scenes than readers ever know.

"[Some] publications will trade access [to a person] for a softball interview," Holman says, adding that there is a lack of edge or criticism in the genre of celebrity interviews. "Oftentimes subjects ... will only allow themselves to be interviewed if there is some kind of unwritten provision that is favourable to them."

Reading a variety of magazines with profiles of the same person helps to underscore the issue that journalism innately comes equipped with bias. While multiple articles can help readers understand what a subject is all about, one journalist's bad day doesn't reflect it all.

"You would hope that readers have a measure of intelligence," Threlfall says.

Although I haven't quite solved the mystery of why the same people get profiled over and over, it seems that every celebrity gets their 15 minutes of due fame until it's the next person's turn to be on every magazine cover. Until I have met the person of the moment and don't need to read about them anymore, I'm fine with that.

New AGGV exhibition opens a new social practice

What: Assume Nothing: New Social Practice
Where: Throughout Victoria
When: Now until May 24

Roland Rasmussen

Facebook and online social networking sites are places where communities gather and much is shared. But who do you really know on those friend lists, and where do the boundaries lie?

"With the rapid growth of the City of Victoria, the role and function of art in public space and the gallery's ongoing intention to be situated in the downtown core, Assume Nothing is particularly timely in the way in which it explores art's effect on the social site of the city," said Lisa Baldissera, the curator of contemporary arts at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV).

Assume Nothing, which began on Jan. 30, is a 115-day exploration of artistic boundaries and will host a plethora of local and international artists, including Nils Norman, Jamie Drouin, Mark Dion, Annie Pootoogook, Superflex and Arthur Zmijewski, in many locations throughout Victoria.

The sound-art of John G. Boehme greeted those who attended Assume Nothing's opening. He was confronting people's boundaries with a microphone, and greeted people as they came into the gallery. He then announced their names, loud above the hubbub.

At first, Boehme came off as doing MC duty, but watching his performance throughout the evening proved to be an effective vehicle for some commentary on socialization. Questions arose, such as how do we conduct ourselves, who do we call our friends and what does that really mean. The answer? Assume nothing.

> "Assume Nothing is particulary timely in the way in which it explores art's effect on the social site of the city."
>
> – Lisa Baldissera, AGGV curator

Assume Nothing's art show challenges the definition of art. One exhibit, Instant Coffee, is a collective and interactive art installation involving blankets and pillows and a little 45-record player. The experience comes close to being like a "green room." This is a show for the senses, and a sense of how the arts can fill in the gaps we have left in our ever changing city.

Locations for Assume Nothing include Market Square, Langham Court Theatre, The Window Projects or the Vancouver Island School of Art, along with many other locations. The relevance of the art placement is as much a part of the show as the art itself. If you come as a stranger to these pieces of art, engage them.

Mowry Baden's iridium treated acrylic will envelope your imagination. If you enjoy light art, this reflective and refractory surface is not to be missed.

Robert Wise's fiberglass Portostructure outside the AGGV is another not to be missed. It stands pink, and lights up as a reminder to all those who risk themselves in the sex-trade. In conjunction with Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society (PEERS), Wise devised a shelter that could function as a base to help protect vulnerable workers from potential "bad dates." More than a functionary design, it can be seen as a metaphor for the social context of the artist as they enter a private/public combat zone.

The Orion Fund and many sponsors made Assume Nothing possible. It took two years to put the show together and comes from all the travels of Baldissera – so remember in your travels to keep a journal and write down all that wonderful art you see. One day you might be putting on a really good show.

Check out the show and form your own relationship with the work. Or, in the 115 days of the exhibit, the art might just find you.

For a complete schedule of Assume Nothing events, go to aggv.bc.ca/current+exhibitions.aspx.

JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO
Sarah Blackstone, UVic's Dean of Fine Arts, spoke at the opening of Assume Nothing at the AGGV.

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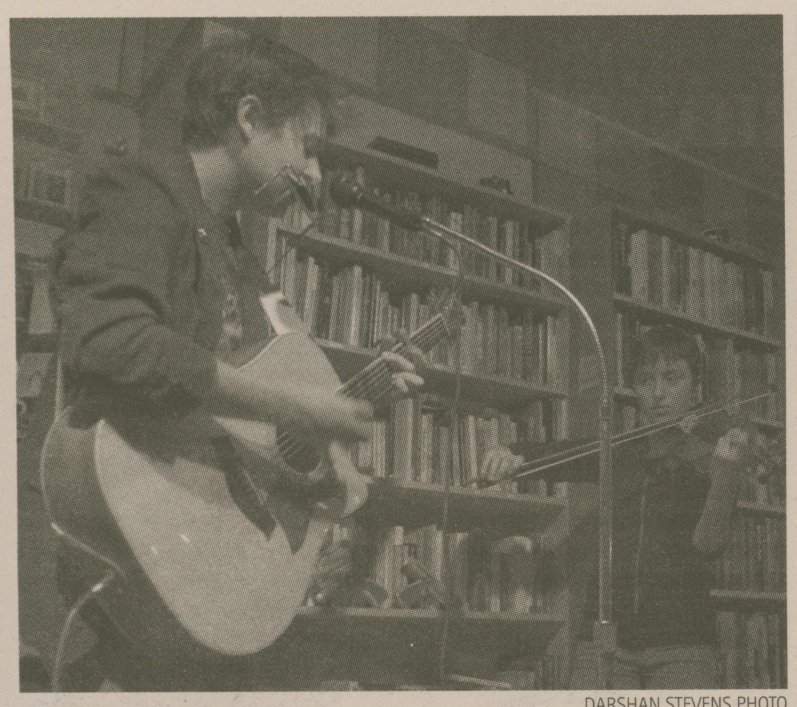

DARSHAN STEVENS PHOTO

Folk singer Eli Geddis entertains the crowd at his Jan. 30 show.

Laser show delights folk singer's crowd

Mike Edel

Eli Geddis' acoustic folk stylings — complete with violins, ukuleles and laser guns — filled James Bay Books and Coffee on Friday night, Jan. 30.

We've all had our fill of hearing lonely hearts holding onto an acoustic guitar, but Geddis' quirky personality, a good cause and toy laser guns kicked the dust off Friday night. Geddis sang an astronaut ballad, after handing out the ukulele and, yes, the laser guns to the audience.

Reluctant at first, two listeners in the audience tossed out a few shots with the laser, then with Geddis' cue "more lasers" they lined the galactic folk with laser beams. Geddis' short set saw two songs a with violinist friend, one memorable song about a Hippie Earth Mother cursing a soldier, and the finest song of the evening — a tribute to Geddis' late friend Anton Leinweber.

Geddis and Leinweber worked together at Blue Lake Summer Camp near Cranbrook, B.C., teaching kids about the science and adventure of the outdoors, sometimes "how to run a chainsaw safely," Geddis jokes.

Donations were taken to support the Anton Leinweber Trust Fund — Leinweber passed away in a climbing accident in 2008.

"There are no more runs to ride, no more mountains to climb, except the ones you left in our mind" Geddis sang, with a picture of Leinweber, decked out in climbing gear, glued to his guitar. Under the photo, Leinweber is quoted saying "enjoy the moment, you only got it once." Leinweber had a passion for the high country, and enjoyed his summers at the Blue Lake Summer camp. Friends, some who also worked at the camp, listened with sparkly eyes.

Geddis, evident in his demeanor, grew comfortable performing music at the summer camp. This was especially apparent when capping the night of with "the most hardcore instrument of them all... the ukulele."

Audience members seemed impressed with Geddis' array of stringed instruments, percussion tactics and unconventional song subjects. Geddis' performance nestled in fittingly among the background of books on Feng Shui, the science fiction novels and teaching yourself how to knit guides.

You won't hear Geddis' boyish vocals alongside Carrie Underwood at this years Grammy's, but if you make it to a show, you will enjoy being the astronaut jamming with the laser gun, firing it across the room's universe.

High school drama cool on ice

Kim Magi

Seeing *High School Musical: The Ice Tour* (*HSM*) is like going to see strippers as a straight woman — you're not the target audience, but you enjoy it anyway.

The show was performed five times between Jan. 29 and Feb. 1 at the Save on Foods Memorial Centre to nearly-sold out audiences.

The *HSM* movies are wildly popular with the tween audience, and it was only a matter of time before they took it to ice. All the phenomenon's merchandise was available at the show, including sparkly blue and silver fedora hats bearing the *HSM* name, and photos with cardboard cut-outs of the main characters for $15. Even the arena staff donned the logo on their aprons.

> "Seeing High School Musical: The Ice Tour is like going to see strippers as a straight woman — you're not the target audience, but you enjoy it anyway."

Touring since late 2007, the show was created as a preview for the third movie, without giving anything away. Unfortunately, the movie came out in October 2008 and the ice show hasn't been updated to reflect this. Showing a trailer before the ice show probably wasn't productive or alluring, since at least three-quarters of the Jan. 29 audience had seen the movie.

The ice show began with a sing-and-dance-along where the audience was encouraged to follow along on the jumbotron. Shrieks of delight ensued every time Zac Efron (current Hollywood it-boy who plays one of *HSM*'s main characters) appeared on-screen.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The High School Musical has moved off the big screen and onto the ice.

Starting with the first movie, the skaters act out scenes, lip-syncing to the voices of the actors that play their characters in the films. Although it looks like it would be difficult to mouth the words while twisting in the air, the skaters pulled it off tremendously.

The storyline never developed completely, as it's likely assumed that the audience is there because they've seen the movies. However, the production provides enough for a person to get by. Gabriella transfers to the school, wins Troy's heart, and together they try out for the musical, much to the dismay of brother-sister duo Ryan and Sharpay. Drama ensues. Troy plays basketball and Gabriella is a science geek, forcing both of them to almost miss their callbacks. But, alas, they make it just in the nick of time and score the leads.

After intermission, a voice came over the loudspeaker: "You know what they say, once school gets off for the summer, it's a whole new ball game." For some of us, this was a foreign saying and we were confused. But all came together as the *HSM* crew lounged and worked at a country club for the second half of the show, playing baseball and working hard for the midsummer talent show.

Typical of the Disney name, the show's production values were fabulous. Basketballs dropped from the ceiling, golf carts drove on the ice, pots and pans were lowered to the ground for a kitchen scene and fireworks for the finale made the show a spectacle. The costumes were bright and sparkly, with each character undergoing multiple outfit changes. Some costume elements that didn't work as the 20-something woman playing the drama teacher who wore a gray bun wig, and Sharpay's white pleather pants.

HSM's target audience spent intermission trying to get the man on the Zamboni to wave at them. *HSM: The Ice Tour* probably isn't for 20-somethings, but overall, the show was well done. Those folks at Disney know what they're doing.

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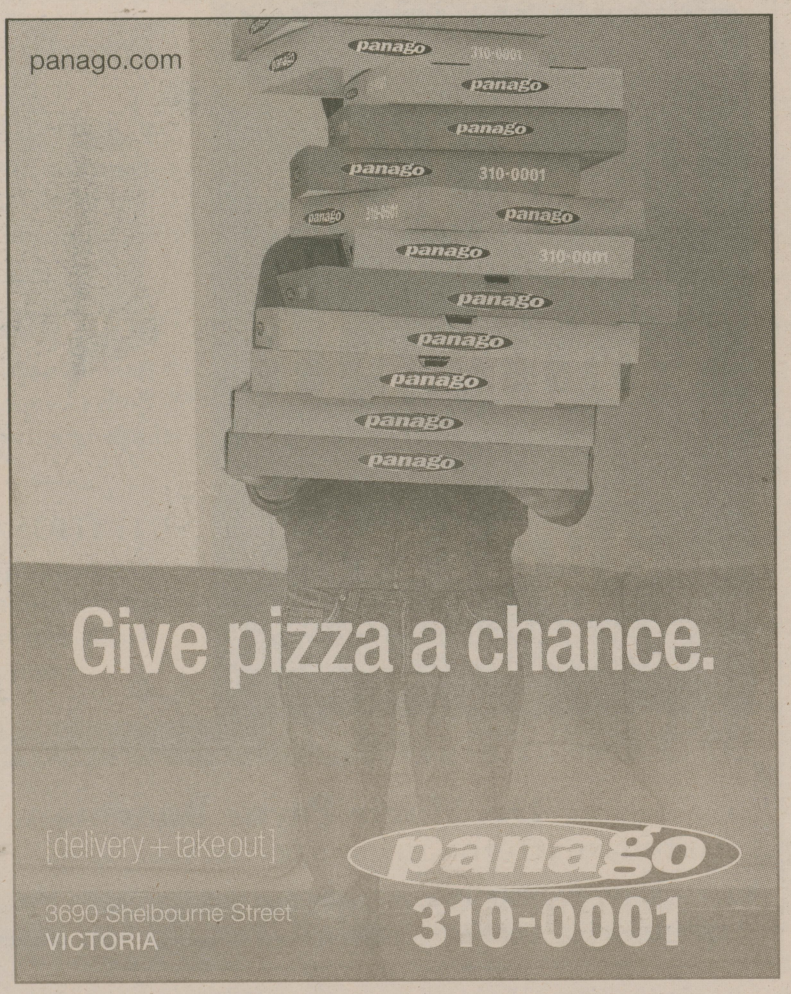

TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3, 2009

1. ANIMAL COLLECTIVE
   Merriweather Post Pavilion (Domino)
2. BLACKOUT BEACH †
   Skin Of Evil (Soft Abuse)
3. COBRAS COBRAS COBRAS †
   The Royal Paul Beatdown (Old Life)
4. A.C. NEWMAN *
   Get Guilty (Last Gang)
5. MT. EERIE
   Lost Wisdom (PW Elverum & Sun)
6. NAIL SALON †
   Rad City [7-Eleven] (Self-Released)
7. MEATDRAW †
   Fin du Monophone (Self-Released)
8. PAVEMENT
   Brighten The Corners: Nicene Creedence Edition (Matador)
9. ANDRE ETHIER *
   Born Of Blue Fog (Blue Fog)
10. MATT & KIM
    Grand (Fader)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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CFUV is the University of Victoria's Campus/Community Radio Station. To find out more information about CFUV, including our programming schedule, volunteer information and complete charts, please visit our website at www.cfuv.uvic.ca.

Hear the weekly top ten on Charts and Graphs every Tuesday at 3:00PM on CFUV 101.9FM.

WHAT'S IN YOUR MOUTH?

Pump iron with Popeye pie

Kiran McKee

Many of us probably still host a bit of spinach-fueled angst from our childhoods. But in the name of studying, putting the spinach hate aside could do us all some good. The green stuff we were afraid of for all those years is actually good for you, so give it another chance. After all, Popeye adored it, why can't we?

Spinach is relatively cheap during this time of year, as low as $1.99 per bunch at some grocery stores. And according to the American Department of Agriculture, a serving of spinach (180 grams) hosts more iron than a hamburger patty of the same size. It's also a great source of vitamin K, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and potassium.

Enter the wonderful world of Spinach Ricotta Pie. It's fool proof and easy to make, and who doesn't enjoy eating a piece of fresh-baked pie? This pie, however, has more than just sugary goodness; it has healthy ingredients and is jam packed with vitamins and nutrients. For those of us still burning off those Christmas cookies, this is the type of dish that dreams are made of.

This recipe, harvested from Mollie Katzen's *Moosewood Cookbook*, is warm and filling, perfect for a February study session. Although it is healthy, it's still fairly rich, so it's best served with salad or a steamed vegetable side dish. It also makes great breakfast leftovers.

KIRAN MCKEE PHOTO

Spinach ricotta pie is one tasty way to fit greens into your diet.

SPINACH RICOTTA PIE

CRUST
90 ml (6 tbsps) butter/margarine
375 ml (1 1/2 cups) flour
60 ml (4 tbsps) milk

Mix the ingredients together. Roll the dough into a circle, flatten and place into pie pan.

FILLING
250 ml (1 cup) chopped onion
450 g (1 lb) spinach
2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
dash of pepper
5 ml (1 tsp) basil
garlic to taste (recommended: 2 cloves)
450 g (1 lb) ricotta cheese (do not use cottage cheese as a substitue)
2-3 eggs
45 ml (3 tbsps) flour
125 ml (1/2 cup) sharp cheddar cheese

In a frying pan, saute the chopped onion for five minutes. Add the spinach, salt, pepper, basil and garlic, Cook over medium heat until the spinach is wilted.

In a bowl, mix the ricotta cheese, eggs, flour and cheddar cheese.

Add the spinach mixture to the cheese mixture, stirring well. Spread evenly into the pie pan, and bake for 40-45 minutes at 375 degrees. Let the pie sit for a few minutes after retrieving it from the oven (otherwise you will be serving glorified scrambled eggs with crust).

The SUB
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International Grill
This Week @ Felicita's
Feb 6th - Model UN Fundraiser @ 9pm
Feb 7th - Canucks vs Chicago @ 7pm
- UVic Global Medical Brigades Fundraiser @9pm
Feb 9th - Battle of the Bands
Feb 10th - Canucks @ St Louis @ 5:30pm
- UPT2 - registration @ 7:30pm
Feb 11th - 1NE Wednesdays w/ special guest DJs
Feb 12th - Canucks vs Pheonix @6:30
- UVic idol
Feb 13th - Canucks vs Dallas @7:30
-Superstition Party 9pm $5 at the door
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Salty foods aren't sweet for your health

Jennifer Gait

What are you doing for lunch today? If you are planning to eat in a restaurant or fast food outlet, then buyer beware — where and what you choose to eat may seriously impact your future health.

World Salt Awareness Week, from Feb. 2 to 8, is focusing on foods prepared outside the home, which typically contain large amounts of hidden salt. A high-sodium diet increases blood pressure — the major risk factor for stroke, heart disease and kidney disease.

How much salt is too much? The amount that most of us eat every day.

Sodium has two approved daily intake levels in each age group. For people aged nine to 50, the adequate daily amount is 1,500 milligrams or less. The tolerable upper intake level (UL) is 2,300 milligrams — health risks increase beyond this maximum daily amount. To restrict intake to the lower level, eat foods with 200 milligrams or less per serving.

A 2004 Health Canada survey showed that in people in the 19 to 30 age range, 98.8 per cent of men and 76.3 per cent of women exceeded the UL. The average daily sodium intake for this cross-section was 4,066 milligrams for men and 2,793 for women. These amounts did not include salt added in cooking or at the table, but mostly came from the salt added to food by manufacturers or restaurants.

A June 2008 Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada press release says reducing salt intake across the board to the adequate daily amount would lead to 17,000 fewer Canadians having a heart attack, stroke or heart failure each year. In addition, adult hypertension would be reduced by 30 per cent, saving the health-care system $430 million to $530 million annually.

Salt Awareness Week can make people aware of how much salt they take in, and which foods are the biggest culprits.

The Canadian Stroke network has created an online table, found at sodium101.ca, which has been drawn from restaurant nutritional information and shows the choices with the highest and lowest sodium counts in main-meal foods. All restaurant foods (and some beverages) may contain high amounts of salt, so request a nutrition sheet from each eatery you frequent.

KNOW YOUR SALT

Your favorite fast food restaurants are salt havens. Here's the food choices that have the highest and lowest sodium scores.

McDonald's
South West Crispy Chicken Sandwich, 1360 mg
Side garden salad, 40 mg

Subway
Montreal Smoked Meat, 1560 mg
Veggie Delight Salad, 75 mg

Tim Hortons
Bacon Club, 1730 mg
Egg salad sandwich, 780 mg

Kentucky Fried Chicken
Poutine, 2610 mg
Macaroni salad, 240 mg

Wendy's
Triple Everything with Cheese, 1900 mg
Caesar side-salad with croutons and dressing, 535 mg

HERE COME THE OSCARS

Button's appeal a little curious

Ian Venables

"I was born under unusual circumstances," Brad Pitt narrates during the first act of one of the most visually appealing productions of the year.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button has been nominated for 13 Academy Awards, and is likely to take home Best Picture.

The film opens and ends at the hospital bed of Daisy, played by an unrecognizable Cate Blanchett. Her daughter, Caroline (Julia Ormond), begins reading her Mom's diary and stumbles upon a lengthy entry by a mysterious man named Benjamin.

The day the Great War ended, a disheartened clockmaker constructed a giant clock that ticked backwards, hoping that the hands of time would also turn backwards, so his son and the millions of other young men lost in the war would return to their families.

On this day, Benjamin was born, abandoned by his disgraced father, and left on the doorsteps of a retirement home. The caretaker, Queenie (Taraji P. Henson), vows to take care of Benjamin. Her kindness knows no boundaries, and it's her presence that gives the film some welcome heart and soul.

The screenplay, written by Eric Roth, is reminiscent of *Forrest Gump*, which Roth also wrote the screenplay for. Both focus on an extraordinary individual, and examine their journeys as they waltz through some of the most defining moments of the 20th century.

Benjamin is definitely a curious character. He undergoes little emotional change throughout the film. He seems unencumbered to the woes of the times and drifts rather passively, busying himself with his own enigmatic conundrum. He also exists as a metaphor for time's march, reminding those close to him that "our lives are defined by opportunities, even the ones we miss."

Director David Fincher (*Seven, Fight Club*) may have bit off a little more than he could chew as he has not had the experience of tackling a film as emotionally heavy as *Button*. And in this regard, the film suffers somewhat.

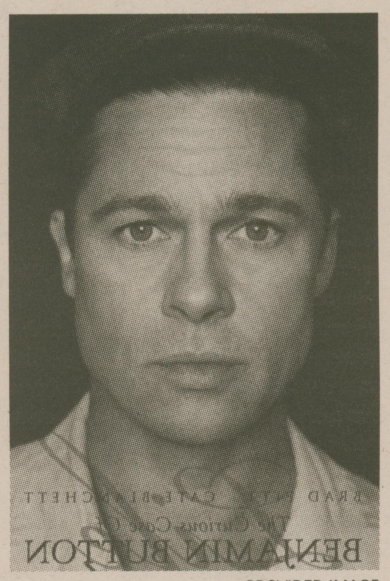
Pitt is pretty good in the title role, but he is complemented by a host of talents including Blanchett and the always reliable Tilda Swinton, who plays an adulterous wife who educates Button about the pain of regret.

In *Babel*, Pitt proved he deserved to be considered at the forefront of Hollywood's elite. But here he plays it safe, letting his forlorn eyes do most of the work.

Does everything in life occur by some design? To what degree must we account for chance? These are the existential concerns contemplated in *Button*, but not a great deal has been learned when the curtains roll down.

A running theme throughout the film is that we never know what's coming for us. Well, we do know that Benjamin and Daisy are going to collide somewhere in the middle. It's disappointing, though, that the peak of their love story conventionally revolves around a love scene.

Visually, the film is a masterpiece. The special effects that transform Pitt from a wrinkled old man to the dreamboat in People Magazine to an adolescent are spectacular. This is a rare occasion nowadays where computer-generated imagery serves a valuable role and not a distraction.



PROVIDED IMAGE

The cinematography glows, enhancing the sense of magic realism flowing through the film. The mesmerizing production design turns the settings into grand paintings, and the stars flourish in them. On top of this is Alexandre Desplat's absorbing score, which, while often melancholic, lingers over the film's poignant events with great delicacy.

The film stretches F. Scott Fitzgerald's 20-something-page short story into a two-hour, 47-minute epic fantasy. And with Fincher's methodical pacing, one may expect *Button* to wear out its welcome. However, the film is never dull. Despite its minor flaws, *Button* is a sensory delight. It may not leave us on as high of a note as its competition Slumdog Millionaire, but it is still a celebration of life that implores us to cherish every moment we have with the ones we love.

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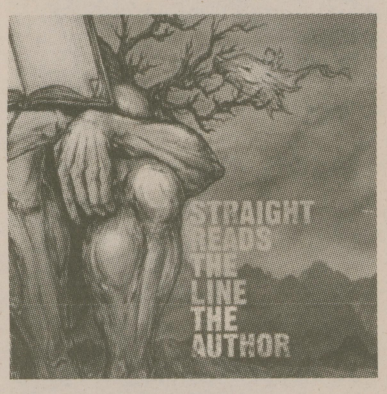
War Kids bomb, Line breaks out in plaid

Cold War's album should pay more attention to rhythm, while Straight Reads The Line makes the "dirty sailor" look en vogue



The Author
Straight Reads The Line
DISTORT ENTERTAINMENT

Ontario's Distort Entertainment just can't stop signing Canadian metalcore, and more endless breakdowns are hardly what the music scene needs these days.

At least the label has some taste. Straight Reads The Line is now rubbing shoulders with Architects, Cancer Bats and Johnny Truant, and the band faces some tough pressure to stand out from its label compatriots.

Thankfully, a bunch of Protest The Hero-esque staccato tapping and a relentless torrent of beats from drummer Travis Kaszycki at least partially rescue *The Author* from the depths of metalcore obscurity. The melodic breaks sometimes drag a little and most of the chord progressions are nothing we haven't heard before. At least vocalist Black Prince's throaty growls aren't annoying, especially pushed far back behind the guitars as they are on this album.

The production focuses the listener's attention towards the warring, multi-tracked guitar lines and whip-fast snare rolls, showcasing the talent in this group that differentiates them from a lot of other offerings. Guitarist Don Levasseur's husky imitation of Dallas Green backup vocals leave a lot to be desired however, and the band hasn't fully escaped the god-awful trend of 12-syllable song titles.

At least these guys have an appreciation for plaid, not to mention the "dirty-sailor" impression of their tattoos in comparison to the sentimental crap so many musicians wear on their sleeves today. Their first music video pretty exciting in that sense — a gussied-up version of a practice space recording that shows the five members thrashing around in the bedroom of some prairie farmhouse with gear no hick could afford.

If nothing else, Straight Reads The Line will add to the lineup of hard-hitting bands following Distort's flagships around the world and spreading the brutality of Canada's lumberjack fight songs.

- Sol Kauffman

Loyalty to Loyalty
Cold War Kids
DOWNTOWN RECORDS

Cold War Kids stormed onto the indie rock scene with their 2006 debut album, *Robbers and Cowards*. The California-based four-piece presented a unique sound which bordered on loose and dissonant while maintaining a funky groove.

The release of *Loyalty to Loyalty* in September of 2008 raised the issue as to whether the band would continue to soar or fall victim to the dreaded sophomore curse.

Unfortunately for Cold War fans, the latter is the case. The magic used to create the breakthrough hit "Hang Me up To Dry" and other notable *Robbers and Cowards* tracks like "We Used to Vacation," "Saint John" and "Hospital Beds," has been lost.

Cold War Kids are at their best when the rhythm section is driving the band, but the contribution of bassist Matt Maust and drummer Matt Aveiro is lacking this time around.

Loyalty to Loyalty wanders along in looseness and dissonance but this album fails to maintain a funky groove.

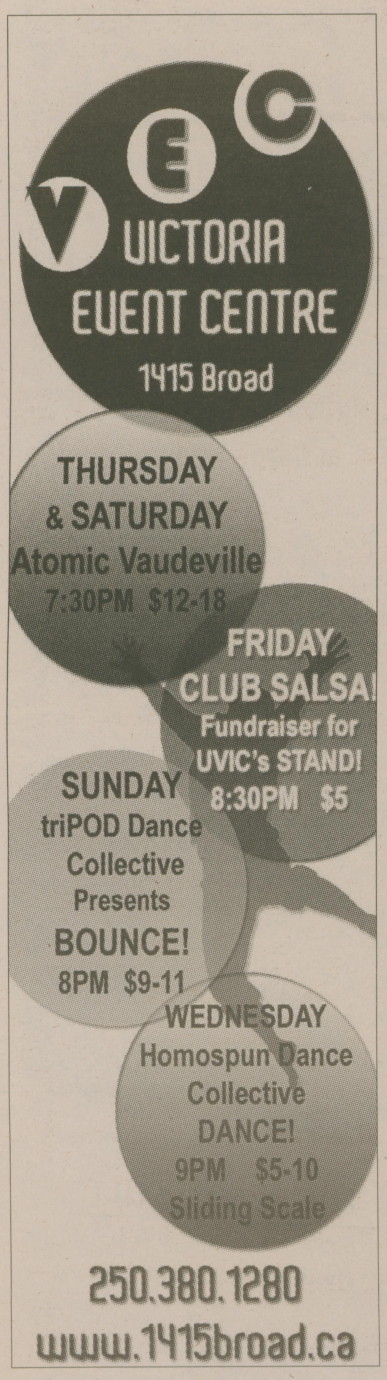
That being said, the band hasn't completely lost its mojo. The fluctuating wails of lead singer Nathan Willett have the power to mesmerize on tracks like the embittered "Welcome to the Occupation," and the forlorn "Avalanche in B."

Willett also displays a lyrical knack for stepping into character, becoming a woman who digs bad boys in "Every Man I Fall For" and an old man trying to recapture lost youth in "Dreams Old Men Dream."

Cool bass lines in "Mexican Dogs" and "Relief" provide oases in the bare rhythmic landscape, and the catchy "Something is Not Right with Me" provides a minor hit for the album.

Loyalty to Loyalty has its shining moments, but Cold War will only heat up again if they show some loyalty to rhythm.

-Spencer Moyes



Vikes teams given The Horn

Andrew Smith

Playing sports on a Vikes' team isn't as easy as it seems. Now, there's a way for athletes to share stories and tell their supporters the inside scoop that you might not get to see anywhere else — The Horn.

At the beginning of UVic's 2009 spring term, Vikes Athletics created a blog for athletes, community members and avid sports fans to share their views and comment on issues in our athletics world.

Through blogging on vikeshorn.blogspot.com, community members have been able to see a different side of our sporting world and have an alternative source for "all things Vikes."

According to Vikes Athletics' Sports Information Assistant Chandler Grieve, the blog is there to build more support for the UVic athletes.

"We wanted to figure out some ways that we can better promote ourselves — not to just our community, but to our student athletes," Grieve said, before adding that with the blog they can get individuals more involved and "give them a voice."

With a number of athletes involved at national and provincial levels, the blog allows Vikes athletes to share unique experiences that are often overlooked by the media community.

"There are a lot of interesting stories that athletes have to tell," Grieve said. "In particular, a lot of UVic athletes have travelled around the world and they have experiences to share."

With the media overload on the hottest Vikes' topics, the blog provides an alternative viewing method to community members.

With the school's rowers winning Olympic medals, soccer players signing to the Victoria Highlanders and Rugby players touring with national squads, there certainly isn't a shortage of material to peak the interest of The Horn's bloggers.

In its second month of operation, the blog already has athletes sharing their stories and posting youtube videos that are related to the sporting events. The Calgary Dinos, for example, were the latest hot topic of discussion as athletes and fans were able to share their predictions on how UVic would fare.

A lot of the buzz was centered around Woody "The Birdman" Harrelson, and his infamous attempt at the NBA slam dunk competition.

Through hot topics like The Birdman, community members and athletes are able to see a different side to the game that just isn't available through a media release focusing on statistics and brief game reviews.

Through generating discussion, a broader fan base can be built that could result in more supporters coming out to games.

Supporters will have the chance to vote on weekly polls. Last week's poll saw bloggers vote UVic women's field hockey as the most interesting story of 2008 Vikes' Athletics.

While the blog is in its early stages, viewers will be able to comment freely. Students interested in participating are asked to contact Chandler Grieve at vicvikes@uvic.ca.

Monster times at Monster Erg

Philippe Granger

Not since the age of the Vikings have we seen hundreds of participants rowing in sync towards a common goal. On Sunday, Feb. 1, over 500 rowers descended upon Mckinnon gym to erg it out in the annual dryland competition.

UVic hosted 18 local rowing clubs in their 24th Monster Erg indoor rowing championship last Sunday, with a gut-wrenching intensity that was well suited for the Superbowl weekend.

UVic had many of their rowers claiming their medals at the podium throughout the day.

Terry McKall pulled in a time of 6:17 to edge out former Vike Tim Myers for the win in the senior A lightweight category, which earned him an invitation to the Indoor Rowing World Championships in Boston.

The senior A men's race saw Doug Csima claim gold with a stellar time of 6:03 and a share of the national title with Western's Peter McCleeland, who was racing in Toronto.

Men's rowing coach Paul Hawksworth commented on Csima's time.

"He gave a really dominant performance of 6:03, that's a personal best for him," said Csima. "We're incredibly excited for him."

Josh Morris finished first among senior B men with a time of 6:12. The Vikes took the top five of six positions in that class.

As he was cooling down after the race, Morris provided insight into how grueling the ordeal was.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Over 500 rowers came out on Saturday, Jan. 31, for the Monster Erg.

"My plan was to pace early, then bring down my [split time] with 1250 metres to go," Morris said.

Morris stated it as a mental jump for going from erging to conventional rowing out on the water.

"[The erg] is more of an individual mindset, as opposed to when you're out [on the water] with your team, so it's just you pulling hard," he said.

Coach Paul Hawksworth added his thoughts on the outcome.

"There were a couple illnesses earlier in the week, those guys were able to recover and put in strong performances," said Hawksworth. "From our inexperienced guys to our experienced guys, I think everybody performed at their best today."

On the women's side, from the senior A/B to the novice women's races, UVic dominated the standings. The senior B lightweight race saw Trish Mara and Leanne Fells finish first and second respectively.

Antje Von Seydlitz took the gold in the novice women's race with a time of 7:22.

Stefanie Miklosovic, an "up and coming star" says coach Rick Crawley, came in third in the novice category, but first among lightweights. Lara Kemp battled a recent illness, but was able to pull off a remarkable time of 7:23 in the senior B women's category to claim top spot.

"They all rowed real well," Crawley said. "We have a very young team, and all in all I'm pretty happy with today's performances."

Rowing indoors is quite a change from competing on the water. The psychology of the erg is a true mental test for the athletes.

"It takes a few people a while to get over the fear of performing with everybody watching [over their shoulder]," Crawley explained. "[The trick is to] not look up at the screen, and just focus on being within yourself."

Although the dryland competition was thrilling, UVic will be back on the water as they head to the Hungerford and Shawnigan regattas on Feb. 14-15.

University of Victoria Students' Society / Canadian Federation of Students Local 44

SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UVSS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2009 - 3:00PM, CINECENTA

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• AGENDA •

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF CHAIR

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
   a. Agenda of 2009/02/12 SAGM

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
   a. Minutes of 2008/10/16 AGM

5. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

   Motion to Amend Bylaws 6.4 and 6.8 – Elections Adjudicator

   BIRT the following be added as bylaw 6:4(i):

   i) The Electoral Committee shall appoint an Elections Adjudicator.

   BIFRT bylaw 6:8(b) be amended to read:

   b) A nominee may appeal any decision of the electoral committee to the Elections Adjudicator. The decision of the Elections Adjudicator is final.

6. PRESENTATION OF 2007-2008 AUDIT

   Motion to Adopt the 2007-2008 Audited Financial Statements

   BIRT the 2007-2008 Audited Financial Statements be adopted.

7. PRESENTATION OF 2008-2009 BUDGET

   Motion to Adopt the 2008-2009 Budget

   BIRT the 2008-2009 Budget be adopted as presented.

8. REPORTS
   a. Board of Directors Report

   Motion to Adopt the Report of the Board of Directors

   BIRT the February 2009 report of the Board of Directors be adopted as presented.

   b. Directors at Large & Advocacy Representative Reports

   Motion to Adopt the Reports of the Directors at Large and Advocacy Representatives

   BIRT the reports of the Directors at Large and Advocacy Representatives be adopted as presented.

9. QUESTION PERIOD (limit 30 minutes)

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

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Vikes sink flailing rowers

Andrew Smith

It's pretty rare to see 200-plus pound forwards sprinting full-field towards the touch line in rugby.

But that's exactly what happened on Saturday, Jan. 31, as the UVic men's rugby team sunk the Vancouver Rowers in their first 2009 CDI Premier League match.

Right after the opening whistle, UVic's Ben Grant fended off four tacklers to touch down for five points. The Vikes looked as though they were prepared to build off their recent 2008 Barnard Cup Victory.

Despite several of their starters being away on National Seven's duty, including their 2008 top try scorer Gordie Sawers, the Vikes were in fine form as they steam rolled the Rowers by a score of 53-8.

UVic's scrum half Jamie Mackenzie was the next to thread the defence and, with the successful conversion by Nathan Hirayama, the Vikes found themselves up 12-0 with just 10 minutes played.

As the stunned Rowers took their time to wake up, the Vikes' forward pack took advantage of their opponents' poor tackling, and ran through players as if it were a sprinting drill. After half-field sprints by tight head prop Toby Peyton and lock John Moonlight, hooker Ryan Hamilton was fed the ball as he went over right under the posts. Shortly after, lock Mike McKay was next to break through the defence and UVic saw their side go up 26-0.

As the half ended and frustrations mounted, both sides gave away sloppy penalties that saw UVic's Hirayama and Rowers' Alex Ackerley convert for three points a piece.

With the grim possibility of repeating last year's 74-0 loss to the Vikes, the Vancouver side regrouped and mustered a second half effort and found their composure.

To narrow the 29-3 deficit, the Rowers' forward pack went to work and pushing the Vikes deep into their own half. After several phases of struck rucking, Rowers' No. 8 Ronan Piggott barreled over to make it 29-8.

Despite having momentum and a number of injuries to the UVic lineup, the Rowers failed to score again.

The Vikes were able to respond, however, and with their captain Adam Kleeberger leading by example, they scored four more tries in the closing 20 minutes of play. By the game's end, Tommy Hartlin and Grant would each score tries with Kleeberger scoring twice to finish the game 53-8.

UVic coach Rick Farrally thought his side had a strong first game back despite letting up the pressure in the second half.

"I thought we started well. The pace was very good and we were executing the things we wanted to do," Farrally said. "We sort of went off the boil a little bit and had a couple injuries. It gave them a bit of momentum."

Thanks to the Vikes' Jan. 24 opposition forfeiting, the UVic side now has nine points in the CDI Premier League standings, while the Rowers remain at four.

Race heats up in Pacific Division

Eric Hertz

Two more games are down, but the Vikes are no closer to holding a home playoff series. For the third week in a row, UVic's men's basketball team and the Trinity West University Spartans sit deadlocked in second place in the Pacific Division.

Both teams won a game and dropped a game this weekend leading to the final regular-season weekend with home court advantage on the line.

Since Trinity holds the tie-breaker, leading the season series between the teams two games to one, the Vikes have to win both of their games and hope that either Manitoba or Winnipeg can pull off a big upset against Trinity.

On Friday night, Jan. 30, the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) sixth-ranked Vikes took on the fifth-ranked Dinos in a game that can be described only as an instant classic. The Dinos' twin towers (literally twins) Ross and Henry Bekkering seemed to be the focus of the Vikes' defence, but it was Robbie Sihota who took out the Vikes.

In the first quarter, the Vikes held the Dinos to well under their scoring average. Henry Bekkering looked like he had burnt all of his energy throwing down a crowd-pleasing dunk exhibition in the warm-ups and could not seem to find his game. Mitch Gudgeon led the way for the Vikes with an easy reverse set-up by Tyler Hass, then a Tim Duncan bank-shot for another two.

The Vikes led 18-12 going into the second quarter where the teams played to a draw. Tyler Fidler of the Dinos dished a sweet no-look pass to Ross Bekkering for an easy lay-up. The Vikes countered with a sheer hustle play from Brandon Dunlop diving for the ball, and ended up with a Ryan McKinnon and-one. The Vikes led 38-31 at the half.

The third quarter game plan for the Dinos was clear — give the ball to Sihota, and watch him score. Sihota was all over the court, knocking down three-pointers and mid-range jumpers. Gudgeon continued his solid play and Tyler Hass kept the game close. With the third quarter winding down, cooler heads luckily prevailed as the Dinos Andy Rochon pushed Tyler Hass after the whistle. Hass, the senior forward, made good on both free throws and would not be knocked off his game. Even so, the Dinos took the lead 57-53 by the end of the third.

The referees made some interesting calls in the fourth. Jeff Cullen of the Vikes was called for a phantom foul at the beginning of the fourth and any call that could have gone either way seemed to go against the Vikes. However, this did set up a memorable finish. Sihota and the Bekkerings led the way for the Dinos, and the Vikes senior duo of Gudgeon and Hass kept the game tight. It was a back and forth affair; every time the Dinos scored, the Vikes answered. With two minutes left though, the Dinos made the most of a Vikes turnover and bad shot to build a seven-point lead.

Cyril Indome entered the game after McKinnon fouled out and promptly hit a three to bring the game back to four. His three was answered by Fidler's who pushed the lead back to seven. Indome then hit another three, stole the inbounds pass, got an offensive rebound off the Vikes' miss and scored again, all in the span of five seconds.

But it wasn't enough, as the Dinos took care of the ball and made their free throws to take the game 86-81.

"I don't know if we squandered the lead as much as they just shot the ball really well," said UVic's head coach Craig Beaucamp. "[The Dinos] hit some very difficult shots in the third quarter."

The Vikes were led by Gudgeon, who scored 22 and secured seven rebounds while playing the whole game.

Hass scored 18 with five boards and Dunlop, who had an off shooting night, had nine assists.

All of the starters for the Dinos scored in double figures, including Sihota with 24 and Fidler with 17. The Vikes held the Bekkerings to a combined 28 points, which was not enough.

On Saturday night, the Vikes took on a Lethbridge Pronghorns team that was looking to the future. With a record of 4-15, the Pronghorns cannot make the playoffs this year and are building for next year.

The result was as expected: the Vikes defence pounded Lethbridge, holding them to 32 per cent shooting from the field. Gudgeon had another strong game with 21 points, and 14 rebounds.

Dunlop rebounded well from an off-game on Friday with 14 points and four assists.

The lone bright spot for Lethbridge was Sephton Spence who came in off the bench to drop 18 points in 23 minutes, on 8-10 shooting.

Next weekend, the Vikes take on Fraser Valley and Thomson Rivers, two teams hoping to play spoiler in the Vikes' chase for a home court playoff series.

This home-stand could also prove to be the last two home games for Hass and Gudgeon, who will be honoured before the Thomson Rivers game.

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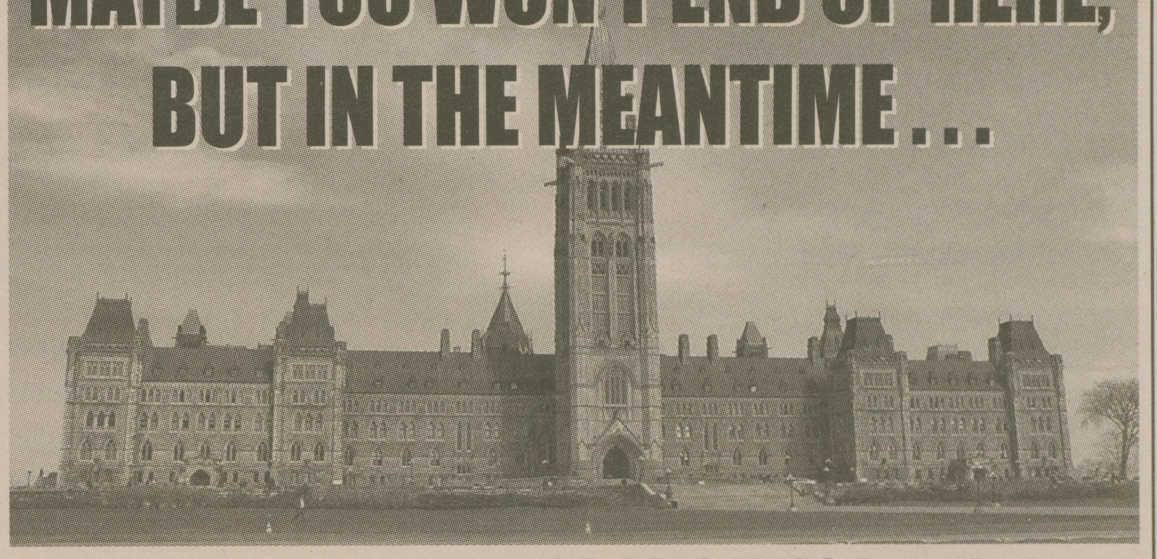

Elections for the 2009-2010 UVSS Board of Directors are coming up and all UVic undergraduate students are eligible to run for a position.

Nominations open on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd** and close at 4:00pm on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9th.**

During the above period, nomination forms can be picked up and completed forms can be submitted to the Elections Office in **SUB B106**.

Campaigning begins on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23th** and goes until the close of polls on **FRIDAY, MARCH 6th.** Polling will take place on **MARCH 4th, 5th, AND 6th.**

For more information go to **www.uvss.uvic.ca.**

UVic hockey the real deal

Jonathon Wolsey

There is something about watching a hockey game at rink-side that makes it that much better than watching it on TV. The smell, the noise of the pucks hitting the glass, or the look of the skates cutting deep into the ice brings you closer to the game then any Gary Bettman gimmick ever could.

Unfortunately, recent NHL ticket prices have shot up, leaving the hockey faithful to lose their connection to players and teams.

Fortunately for avid hockey fans, there's a team you may not know about playing for our university. On Saturday, Jan. 31, the UVic men's hockey team hosted a game that saw them face off against UBC Okanagan at the Ian Stewart complex, where they lost 6-3.

"The boys came out a little flat" said UVic coach Harry Schamhart.

But who could blame them? The squad didn't exactly have the home-crowd cheering them on. With only a handful of supporters scattered around the arena to take in the game, it's understandable why the players were less then enthusiastic about playing at home.

The fact that the team only has a club status would surprise some since the roster is composed of UVic students training and competing on a regular basis.

"[It] would be nice to get a decent game-time so we could advertise and would be able to recruit new players," commented Schamhart on the game schedules.

With limited ice time available, the games are forced to be played late at night.

The Ian Stewart Complex doesn't give the UVic hockey squad priority, as a large number of other community members sign out ice time. There are also conlicts on Saturday as the men's Vikes team has to compete with NHL games, Salmon Kings games or just Saturday parties.

"Another factor is that [the team] is not recognized by the university," Schamhart said. "The last three years the team has gone a long way and has done well. However, more support would be great."

The B.C. Intercollegiate Hockey League (BCIHL) has only five teams, but is looking to expand that number to 10. The additional teams would make the league more competitive, and would allow university hockey to be seen as more than an intramural game.

Along with UVic, Trinity Westesrn University, Selkirk College, Simon Fraser University and University-College of the Fraser Valley make up the league which has been copied from a Calgary universities' intercollegiate hockey league.The men's team has been working hard on getting a constitution, and meeting regulations required for university students to form a team and a partnership with the university.

The men's hockey team has produced several professional hockey players, such as Drew Davies — the practice goalie for the Salmon Kings. The squad also led the league in goals last year, and also helped produce players which have signed contracts and received scholarships for American universities.

As of now, UVic is sitting at the middle of the table with 12 points, while Simon Fraser leads the table with a huge lead of 24 points. The last home games for the Vikes will be next weekend, on Feb. 6 and 7, as they play University of the Fraser Valley who sit in second place — four points ahead of UVic.

Due to a rough schedule, the squad will be playing their last home game this Friday — the last chance to see the team in action before the playoffs.

Vikes clinch home playoff series

Eric Hertz

For the first time since 2004, the Vikes will host the Pacific Division playoffs on their home court.

The Vikes only needed one win this weekend to clinch a home playoff series and they got it done early, locking up a Friday night game against the Calgary Dinos 65-52. The Vikes then went on to win again on Saturday night, handling the Lethbridge Pronghorns 78-51.

On Friday night, Jan. 30, the Vikes came out flying against the Calgary Dinos. The Vikes' full-court press created a number of turnovers in the first five minutes. This, combined with cold shooting from the Dinos and poor defensive intensity, allowed the Vikes to build an early nine-point advantage.

The Vikes offence ran through Kayla Dykstra in the second quarter. Dykstra scored a number of baskets, but it was her passing out of the post that really allowed the Vikes offence to flourish. The Dinos were slow to rotate onto the shooters after double-teaming Dykstra, leaving the Vikes open for three-point opportunities. The Calgary offence made the most of transition opportunities, but were unable to consistently score in a half-court setting.

The Dinos came out looking like a new team in the second half, scoring more in the third quarter than in the first half. Ashley Hill of the Dinos was all over the floor, hitting three-pointers and providing strong defensive intensity. The Vikes' offence sputtered and could not find an open look anywhere. Calgary brought the game to within five by the end of the third.

With strong defence in the fourth, the Vikes made sure the Dinos got no closer.

"Our defence is becoming more consistent," said head coach Brian Cheng after the game. "But there are still areas of our game that need improvement."

GEESHAN BANDARA PHOTO

UVic disposed of both the Calgary Dinos and the Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Dykstra finished with a huge double-double of 24 points, 15 rebounds and four steals.

"Awesome is probably an understatement," Cheng said of Kayla Dykstra. "I just finished off filling out a Canada West All-Star Nomination for her ... there are not too many things on the checklist that she doesn't do."

UVic's Vanessa Forstbauer had a complete game, finishing with nine points, eight assists, eight rebounds with a block and two steals.

Calgary was led by Ashley Hill and Ashley Ashman who dropped 14 and 12 points, respectively.

On Saturday, with no playoff implications, the Vikes continued to shine. They dismantled the Pronghorns 71-58. The Vikes forced 31 turnovers and held Lethbridge to 43 per cent shooting. Dykstra again led the way for the Vikes with 25 points and 14 boards. Jane Anholt chipped in with 13, while Forstbauer scored 10 with another eight assists.

Lethbridge's Sam Hornquist led the opposition with 15 points, and Hannah Blanchette scored 13 and grabbed 10 rebounds.

For her performace last weekend, Kayla Dykstra was named the Canada West Athlete of the Week.

Up next for the Vikes are two more games with no playoff implications. The Vikes will face the University of Fraser Valley and Thompson Rivers University next weekend, and will likely rest their starters and preparation for hosting the Canada West Division semi-finals the weekend after.

"[Having home court advantage] is a great opportunity for us," stated Cheng. "Usually we would be on the road against one of our Pacific Division rivals."

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ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

UVic Career Fair 2009: Explore your fit
10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Student Union Building, Michele Pujol Room and Upper Lounge

When it comes to career paths, you never really know what fits until you try it on for size — but finding unique work opportunities can sometimes be a difficult task. Career Services is hoping to make your search easier by rounding up dozens of hiring employers and bringing them to you on your own turf in a no-pressure setting. No matter your year of study or academic field, it's time to start exploring your options for co-op, internship, practicum, summer, volunteer and post-UVic positions.

Fee: Free
Info: 250-472-4274
melaniet@uvic.ca

UBC Sauder School of Business: Diploma in Accounting Program Info Session
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Campus Services Building, 110

The Diploma in Accounting is a flexible, transferable and fast-paced program designed to accelerate your career and prepare you for a CA, CGA or CMA designation. Please RSVP to http://www.careerservices.uvic.ca/events/

Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8419
dragertl@uvic.ca

Cumulative effects of climate warming and increasing disturbance on vegetation in the Western Arctic
7:30 - 9 p.m.
Social Sciences & Mathematics Building, A102

Dr. Trevor Lantz, who will be joining the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria in 2009 as an Assistant Professor, will speak about his PhD and postdoctoral studies on climate change, disturbance and tall shrub dynamics in Canada's arctic. This event is part of a Public Lecture Series on forests and climate change hosted by the Centre for Forest Biology.

Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-7119
forbiol@uvic.ca

Orion Lecture Series: Daniel Young and Christian Giroux
8 - 10 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, A162

Daniel Young and Christian Giroux are visual artists based in Toronto and Guelph, respectively. They employ industrial materials and prototyping methodologies to produce works that reflect upon the history of abstraction and the imbrication of social meaning in phenomenal experience. Although primarily object makers, they also deploy maquettes, drawings and film to explore the structural logic of objects and spaces. Their work has been exhibited at the Power Plant in Toronto, Aceartinc In Winnipeg and through the Public Arts Projects Initiative of the Scope Miami Art Fair. Their first major public commission, Reticulated Gambol, will be unveiled at Lee Centre Park in the spring of 2009. They are represented by Diaz Contemporary in Toronto.

Fee: Free

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

Women's Basketball
6 p.m.
McKinnon Gym
Fraser Valley vs. UVic.

Fee: Students and Rec Members Free
Info: 250-721-8725
vikes@uvic.ca

Men's Basketball
8 p.m.
McKinnon Gym
Fraser Valley vs. UVic.

Fee: Students and Rec Members Free
Info: 250-721-8725
vikes@uvic.ca

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

Women's Basketball
5 p.m.
McKinnon Gym
Thompson Rivers vs. UVic.

Fee: Students and Rec Members Free
Info: 250-721-8725
vikes@uvic.ca

Men's Basketball
7 p.m.
McKinnon Gym
Thompson Rivers vs. UVic.

Fee: Students and Rec Members Free
Info: 250-721-8725
vikes@uvic.ca

Intimacy: A Bharatanatyam (South Indian Classical dance) Performance
7 - 9 p.m.
MacLaurin Building, A144

University of Victoria Student Club, Society For Indian Classical Arts (SICA), presents "Intimacy: Exploring Shiva through Dance and Poetry," a Bharatanatyam Dance Performance written and performed by Anusha Fernando. Anusha Fernando will perform a solo Bharata Natyam recital of traditional repertoire and poetry in praise of Lord Shiva.

Fee: $5 Students
Info: 250-721-2672
sganti@cs.uvic.ca

Life Drawing
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Visual Arts Building, A150

Please contact Suzanne at sbean@uvic.ca for further information.
Open to the public. All skill levels welcome!

Fee: $5
Info: sbean@uvic.ca

SUNDAY, FEB. 8

Missions to Mars-Dr. Alain Berinstain/Canadian Space Agency
2:30 - 4 p.m.
Bob Wright Centre, B150

Dr. Alain Berinstain is the Director of Planetary Exploration and Space Astronomy of the Space Science Branch. He is responsible for such projects as the Canadian involvement in the Phoenix Mars mission, the Canadian involvement in the James Webb Space Telescope, and he participates in the effort for putting together plans for Canada's role in the exploration of the Solar System.

Fee: Free
Info: mshen@uvic.ca

MONDAY, FEB. 9

BC Hydro Engineers-in-Training: Employment Info Session
12:30 2:30 p.m.
Engineering & Computer Science, 660

Engineers-in-Training receive on-the-job training in a comprehensive two-year training program designed to provide you with the necessary skills, knowledge and practical experience to achieve your Professional Engineering designation. Opportunities exist for new and recent graduates to build on their existing degree in electrical, mechanical or civil engineering. During the training, you may be required to relocate to various locations in British Columbia.

Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8419

Open Mic Night
7 - 9 p.m.
Halpern Centre for Graduate Students

Come out to the Open Mic Night from 7pm to 9pm at the Grad House. Hosted by the UVic New Music Club.

Fee: Free
Info: Miles
milesw@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11

Canadian Security Intelligence Services (CSIS): Employment Info Session
4:15 - 6 p.m.
David Strong Building, C116

CSIS contributes to making Canada among the world's best countries in which to live. The importance of our mandate is reflected in a highly professional environment that values critical thinking and ethical practices. Our expertise in the use of leading-edge technologies helps to put us at the forefront of the world's security intelligence organizations. CSIS offers more than a job; it provides an environment where you can build a meaningful and rewarding career.

Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-8419
dragertl@uvic.ca

The Cultural Limits of Legal Toleration: Law and Religious Pluralism
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Engineering & Computer Science, 124

This talk will present the argument that our understanding of the nature of the relationship between modern constitutionalism and religious difference has suffered with the success of the story of legal tolerance and multiculturalism.

Fee: Free
Info: 250-721-6325
csrs@uvic.ca

ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, FEB. 5

Jess Taylor @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn
9 p.m.
(No Minors).

Fee: Free

Cody Rivers Show @ Metro Studio
7 - 8 p.m., doors at 6:30 p.m.
(All Ages).

Fee: $15 adults
$12 Students

FRIDAY, FEB. 6

DJ Degree, DJ Anger @ The Cambie at the Esquimalt Inn
9 p.m.
(No Minors).

Fee: $5

Robot/Lion Tour Die Roten Punkte @ Metro Studio
9 - 10 p.m., doors at 8:30 p.m.
(All Ages).

Fee: $15 adults
$12 Students

SATURDAY, FEB. 7

Petit Objet a, Yianni Pappas-Acreman and An Angel's Apocrypha @ the Black Stilt Coffee Lounge (Hillside)
7 p.m.

Come out and support local UVic musicians! A night of original works from three diverse acts.

Fee: $5

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOMETIMES IN APRIL- HBO's Sometimes in April is an unflinching look at the inhumanity that gripped Rwanda, 1994. The film is being shown at Camosun College's Auditorium in the Young Building, 217, 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6.

TriPOD Dance Collective presents BOUNCE, a brand new bi-monthly evening of short dance and physical theatre works by local and visiting artists.
The premiere performance will take place at the Victoria Event Centre (1415 Broad St.), Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. This month features work by: Leah Wickes, Nicole McSkimming, Annemarie Cabri, Lori Hamar, Robbyn Scott, Kimberly Tuson, Treena Stubel and more! Tickets $11 and $9 at the door.

Accepting applicants to provide support and information as volunteers on our Sexual Assault Response Team. Required training starts February 14th. Contact Lindsay at the Women's Sexual Assault Centre, 383-5545 or volunteers@vwsac.com.

Become a Crisis Line Volunteer with the NEED Crisis & Information Line. You can learn the "Fine Heart of Listening." Make a difference in your community and in your own life! Please call 250 386- 6328 or visit our website at www.needcrisis.bc.ca.

"VOCES INTIMAE"will be performing its annual benefit concert to raise money for Ukrainian orphanages at 3:00 pm, Sunday, February 15th, at St. Nicholas Church,Cook & Caledonia. The concert will consist of unaccompanied choral pieces from Ukraine, Russia and Bulgaria. Also on the programme are sections of the Estonian composer Arvo Part's 'Kanon Pokajanen', ana new work by local Victoria composer Sylvia Rickard. Tickets are $20, $15 for seniors and students, and are available at Ivy's Bookstore, Larsen Music and Long & McQuade, and at the door. For more info 250-727-2529.

Cycling for sustainability - Change the world. Change yourself. Maybe even change a few flat tires. The Otesha Project is now accepting volunteers for its 2009 cycling and performing tours. Cycle across Canada as part of a traveling theatre troupe and help build a more sustainable world. Tours depart Ottawa, Calgary, Vancouver and Moncton. Check out www.otesha.ca, or call 613-237-6065 for more information.

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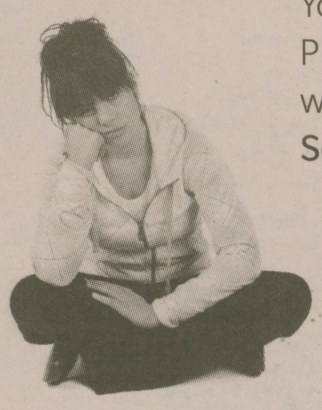


You should have called Piazetti's, the only place with **Late Night Express Service** to UVic.

Piazetti's Pizzeria
www.piazettis.com
250-920-5550

Call for Proposals for the
Grad Class Legacy Project

The University of Victoria Graduating Class of 2009 extends an invitation to all students , on-campus organisations and departments to submit design proposals for its 2009 Legacy Project.

Selection criteria include: student focus, artistic substance, interaction, functionality and lasting presence on campus.

The Proposals should attempt to reflect the Graduating Class' interest in encouraging students to participate academically, socially and politically in the campus community.

Applications must include:
- a brief outline of the mandate of your organisation or group
- a 250 word description of the specific project and goals
- a budget which details all funding sources
- your contact information

All Proposals should be addressed to:
University of Victoria Grad Class 2009
Student Union Building
University of Victoria
P.O. Box 3035
Victoria BC
V8W 3P3
e-mail: uvicgrad09@gmail.com

PROPOSALS ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:30PM MARCH 1, 2009

For more information please contact the 2009 Grad Class at uvicgrad09@gmail.com

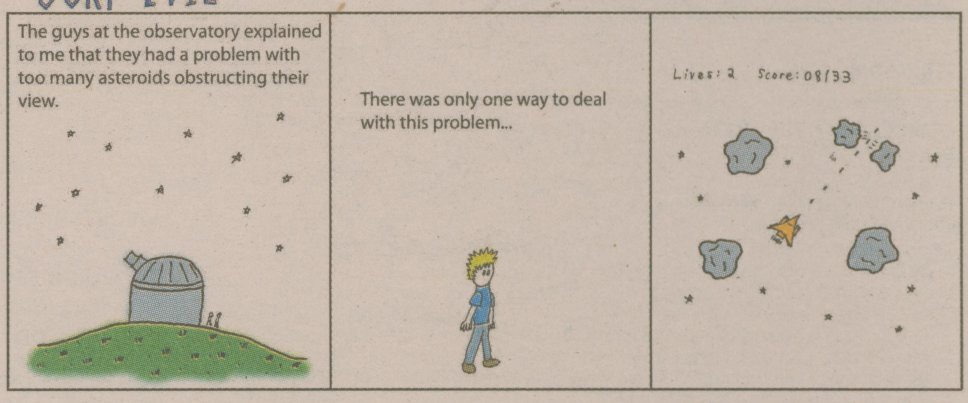
Comics

"Checkerpop.com"

by marc and denver.

art @checkerpop.com

CORP EVIL



DAY 451 30 November, 2008

It's Not Funny When You Do It!

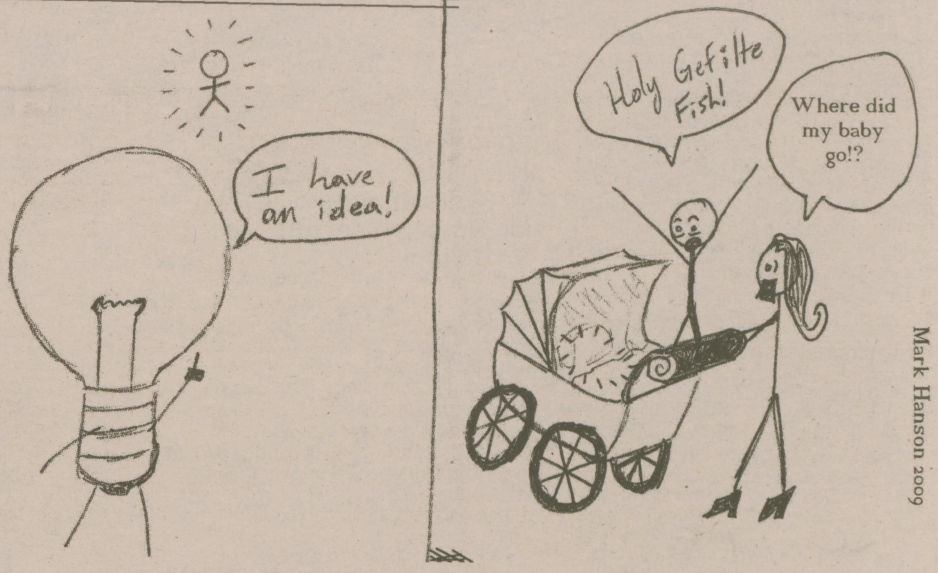
Smith vs. Smith: "Everyone's a Critic"

by Matt Smith!

Porkmouth

by Cole Roche

Sticks With Stones

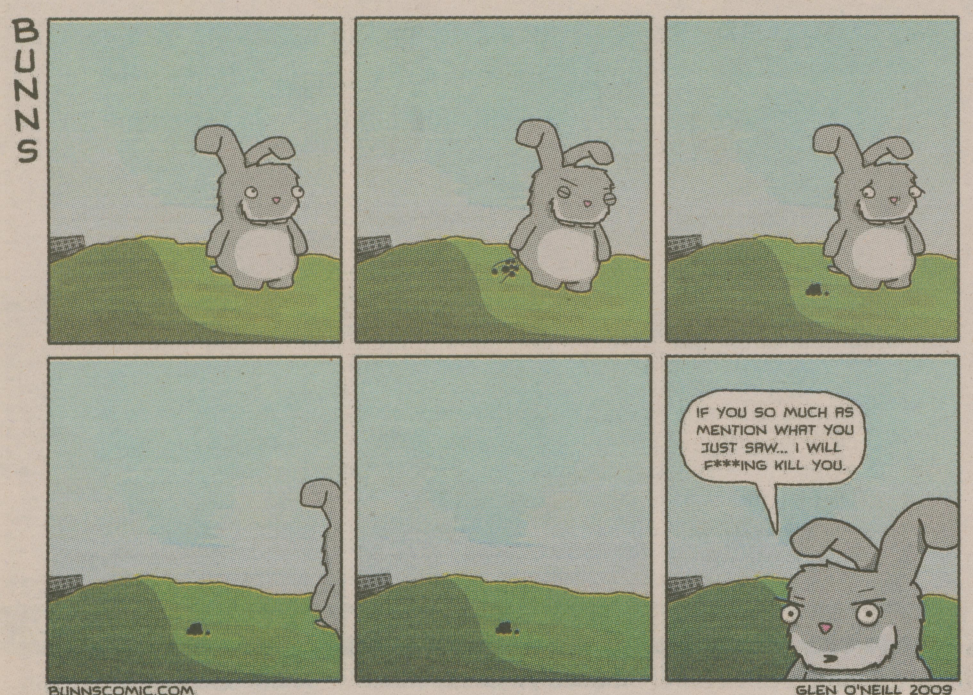


Mark Hanson 2009

NORTH-EAST LYNX

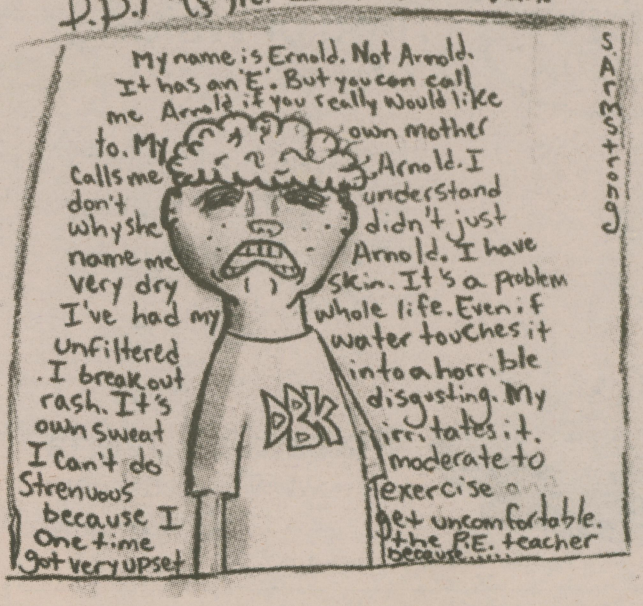
northeastlynx@gmail.com

BUNNS



BUNNSCOMIC.COM GLEN O'NEILL 2009

D.B.K. in: "Ernold's Skin."



International Development Week

www.cida.gc.ca/idw

Semaine du développement international

www.acdi.gc.ca/sdi

Delivering Results to Make a Difference in the World

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) invites you to celebrate the 19th annual International Development Week (IDW), taking place February 1-7, 2009, with the theme Development for Results. This theme reflects the commitment of the Government of Canada and CIDA towards achieving more effective aid. The effectiveness of aid is measured first and foremost in real outcomes and tangible results, which make a significant difference in the lives of people who receive Canadian assistance. IDW provides a unique opportunity for the Government of Canada and Canadian organizations and individuals to publicize progress achieved and lessons learned in international development.

BCCIC
www.bccic.ca

This year the BC Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) would like to highlight the contributions British Columbians are making in the world. In this insert, you will read about:

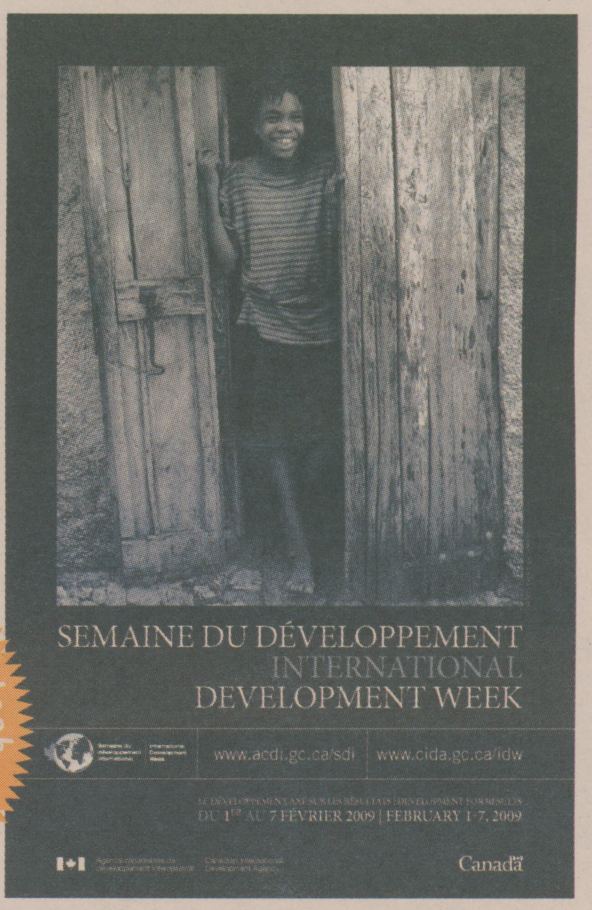
- Volunteer and internship opportunities locally and overseas
- Testimonials of British Columbians, sharing their experiences and tips for securing opportunities
- Ways to take action and contribute to international development
- A calendar of IDW events and activities.

BCCIC is a coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals operating locally and globally, to reduce global poverty and achieve sustainable human development. The Government of Canada supports our work through the (CIDA). This insert has been developed and distributed with CIDA's support.

Canadian International Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement international

International Development Week
$500
www.bccic.ca
Deadline: Feb. 16/09
Prize Draw



Learn how you can get involved as a volunteer/intern in BC and overseas.

The duration of the placements, the age requirements and the tasks are described below.

BC Opportunities

Maria-Helena Foundation is a small family-based, private, non-sectarian organization that focuses on development in South Asia, primarily Pakistan.
www.mariahelenafoundation.org
1 year, under 25 years - Preparing/maintaining presentations, exhibits, website, database & conducting research.

Seva Canada is an international development organization whose mission is the eradication of preventable and treatable blindness.
www.seva.ca
Negotiable length, no age requirement - Communications, marketing, PR & fundraising.

Trans-Himalayan Aid Society seeks to improve the health and education of children and youth in Tibet, Nepal and northern India.
www.tras.ca
Unlimited length, any age - Supporting events: planning, publicity, displays.

World Neighbours Canada is an international people-to-people organization that supports grassroots community initiatives to alleviate hunger, disease and poverty in Asia, Africa & Latin America.
www.worldneighbours.ca
Variable time, any age - Organizing public education events, review of proposals / reports.

YMCA of Greater Vancouver is dedicated to the development of people in spirit, mind, and body as well as the improvement of local, national and international communities.
www.vanymca.org
3 months in summer, university students - Program assistance, communications & marketing.

BC and Overseas Opportunities

Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS) is an interdenominational Christian organization which provides community development assistance and skills training to the people of Africa in cooperation with local churches and other grass roots organizations.
www.acts.ca
Various lengths (6 weeks - 6 months/full time), various ages - Local office work and overseas field work.

International Centre for Sustainable Cities works with cities and communities on long-term sustainability planning, demonstration projects and facilitation of high profile events.
www.sustainablecities.net/
3-10 months, university/college students and graduates - Community planning; sustainability; community development; tourism; facilitation; networking; research.

Pacific Peoples' Partnership links Indigenous communtiies in the South Pacific with Canadian First Nations to share knowledge and best practises of rights-based sustainable development to address poverty, environmental degradation and loss of culture.
www.pacificpeoplespartnership.org
4-6 months and longer, university student or grad prefferd - Program support, member outreach, writing, research and training.

Partners for Prosperity assists organizations and groups to build capacity to serve community development initiatives.
www.partnersforprosperity.org
Various lengths, various age requirements - Conference/workshop delivery, bookkeeping, agricultural development.

Overseas Opportunities

Canadian Crossroads International is an international volunteer cooperation agency that brings citizens and organizations together in Canada and developing countries to reduce poverty, combat HIV/AIDS and promote human rights.
www.cciorg.ca
7 months, age 19-30 - Risk analysis, program design, HR and systems management.

Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiative is an interdisciplinary research and resource centre focusing on the Asia-Pacific region.
www.capi.uvic.ca
4-8 months, various age requirements - Career-related skills on HIV/AIDS, migration, human rights and the environment.

Centre for Sustainable Community Development at Simon Fraser University supports the sustainable development of communities through research, education, and community mobilization; it provides research, training and advisory services throughout BC and Canada as well as internationally in Bolivia and Mexico.
www.sfu.ca/cscd/international/index.html
3-4 months, various age requirements - Action research, community economic and sustainable development.

Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA) is committed to ending global poverty and creating a more just and equitable world. VIDEA works to engage youth and communities in critical development issues, build links with overseas partners and provide solidarity and support to assist overseas communities.
www.videa.ca
Various lengths and ages - Work in human rights, gender, land-rights through writing, research and communications.

Discovering BC's opportunities

"Through my internship I realized what a wealth of knowledge there is in BC. We are so lucky to live in such a multi-cultural society that has ties around the world. We should not be hesitant in tapping into this knowledge!

The Maria-Helena Foundation had focused on funding students and building schools through annual donations to the foundation. Through my internship I was able to work closely with Global Agents for Change, a Vancouver-based youth-run NGO. I become involved in a pilot project called Education Generation, a concept that uses technology to bridge the gap between supporters and students and allows everyone to be involved in the move towards global education.

I learned that there are so many opportunities right here in BC for young people interested in making a difference! My tip; remember that internships and volunteering are two-way-streets. Not only are you helping out the organization, but they are helping you to reach your goals."

By: Laura Davies,
Intern with The Maria Helena Foundation, Vancouver

University intern puts research skills into practice

"My internship with the "Students for Development" program, (sponsored through the Canadian International Development Agency / Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada), was a tremendous experience. I spent three months in the city of Sucre in southwest Bolivia, with the Centro Juana Azurduy. The Centre seeks to address the gender dimensions of development by promoting women's rights through advocacy and education programs.

I worked with the Women's Leadership program, helping with leadership training workshops and conducting a study on the obstacles facing women in public and political participation. *My experience has broadened my understanding of women's issues, especially of rural indigenous women, and has given me a chance to put important research skills into practice.*

My advice to anyone interested in volunteering with an international NGO is to always ask questions, to see it as an opportunity for learning, and to remember that you are not the expert."

By: Chelsey Branch,
Intern with Centre for Sustainable Community Development,
Simon Fraser University, Burnaby

Understanding and appreciating different realities

Clémence Tatin-Jaleran took a leave from her job as an actuary in Vancouver to work in Bolivia with ANED (Asociación Nacional Ecuménica de Desarrollo), a micro-finance organization which supports local producers and people launching small businesses.

Clémence develops risk analysis systems for micro-credit loans and is working on a micro-insurance product for low-income families. She describes it as a "firsthand experience we cannot have from an office in Canada. *It would have been impossible to fully understand how Bolivians work, or to appreciate the reality for Bolivians participating in ANED's microfinance activities, if I had stayed in Canada or even in the capital of Bolivia.* I learned something essential, that I have to understand the local life, needs and resources in order to adapt my work and to make it appropriate and efficient."

Her advice for those thinking of working overseas: "Don't give up when you face challenges abroad. Anything can be overcome with a smile and perseverance!"

Photo: Fabián Mendivil, Director, Risk Management, and Clémence Tatin-Jaleran, La Paz
Intern with Canadian Crossroads International, West Office, Vancouver and ANED, Bolivia

Volunteers learn professional and life skills

Volunteers with Africa Community Technical Service (ACTS) reflect on their learning's in Uganda. Naomi Cummings states "*The professional skills that I gained in the placement are engineer surveying, water quality testing and agricultural practices using nothing but a hoe."* For Rev. Geffory Dixson he has learned that "one cannot deny the enormity of the many needs that are obvious as we go about our daily routine, however there is an infectious joy, many a sincere smile and handshake from the many people we meet, whether in church or in a person's home. We wish we could speak the language because we cannot go into many of the homes or a church without an interpreter." Burnie Cassidy shares one myth that this experience changed for him, "You need heavy equipment to do construction projects' We had 1,500 community volunteers who moved tons of rocks, bricks, sand and concrete, digging about 20 kms of trenches with nothing more than a hoe. A tip for those interested in volunteering with an NGO: "Be patient, things do get done".

By: Naomi Cummings, Rev. Geffory Dixson and Burnie Cassidy,
Volunteers with ACTS, Comox

Pursuing goals to work in education

"As a requirement of the Global Stewardship Program at Capilano University we volunteer locally or overseas. I decided to travel to Kenya with two other girls and work in an orphanage. We spent 6 months fund-raising and planning our trip. I spent two months in Kenya and during this time *I experienced firsthand what we had learned in class about development work.* My time there is indescribable. Along with so much else, I learned how important education is. In Kenya not all children have the chance to go to school. Not going to school leaves little chance for having a successful life. Because of my overseas volunteer experience, I now know I want to be a teacher and work with Kenyan teachers to help them get access to teaching resources."

Photo: Marika with kids in Kibera, Nairobi
By: Marika Ke
Student in the Global Steward
Capilano University

British Colu are Deliverin to Make a Diffe Wor

BC citizens are doing e to reduce poverty bo countries aroun These stories demons Columbians of all ages of life are taking act change and They are improving th women and men in ve

International Development Week February 1-7 2009

Indigenous partnerships address the impact of climate change

"As a child I yearned to explore the world beyond the boundaries of the Cowichan reserve on Vancouver Island. After high school, I enrolled in a First Nations Studies program, needing to explore the history of my people. Mid-way through my studies, I was selected by Pacific Peoples' Partnership (PPP) to intern with the Cook Islands National Environment Service for six months. I soon learned the reality, the South Pacific is very different from the post card pictures of paradise; there are issues and challenges similar to those confronting Aboriginal Canadians.

I completed a BA in Anthropology and Geography but maintain an ongoing relationship with PPP. In 2007 I coordinated a public engagement tour in the Cook Islands and across Canada as far as Iqaluit to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on Indigenous communities north and south. PPP published my children's book, Pacific Promises: A Story from the Leaders of Tomorrow. Written in collaboration with a Maori friend in Rarotonga, the book aims to share knowledge on the impact of climate change on Pacific and Canadian Indigenous communities and to inspire youth to become strong leaders in these challenging times. *Volunteering with PPP has opened up a world of opportunities for me and has allowed me to contribute to the well-being of my community in many important ways."*

By: Stephanie Peter,
Intern with Pacific Peoples' Partnership, Victoria

UVic interns make positive changes in the Pacific

For three young British Columbians heading off to the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF) in Rarotonga, Cook Islands to participate in internships was the proverbial icing on their academic cake. PIAF is a regional leader in the fight against AIDS. It was the first, and remains the leading, organization representing the rights and interests of People Living with HIV/AIDS in the Pacific region.

Morgan Slavkin was brought to PIAF in August to help map existing HIV/AIDS resources across the region. *For Morgan seeing "positive change" is her key motivator.* Adam Houston, working directly with PIAF's Legal and Human Rights Task Force since August, has expanded upon his interests in health law and policy. At PIAF Adam has had a hand in developing a National AIDS Policy for the Cook Islands, he's worked on education and advocacy materials, and has supplemented his policy work with developing radio dramas and documentaries. Hilary Gorman landed in Rarotonga in September and hit the ground running. Her work has involved developing a facilitator's guide for PIAF's Faces and Voices of HIV in the Pacific CD Rom, helping to support the development of a Pacific Islanders Positive Network and completing a report on stigma and discrimination in the region. Hilary says that being at PIAF has provided a "fantastic opportunity" to gain a whole new tool kit and frame of reference.

Photo: PIAF team, including Adam, Hilary and Morgan with the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands.
Interns with Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria, Victoria

Traveling to Nepal to help with water programs

"If nothing else, Nepal is vertical. What goes up, up and up, must come down, down, down, and the going is incredibly slow. *Thingre is the latest village to have completed a water system with World Neighbours Canada's support.*

Coming into Thingre, the village elders meet us and show us a brand new reservoir. Water feeds into it from a spring source somewhere above them. They have 3 taps in the village that are fed by the reservoir. One is at the top of the village, the others much lower down. The village is on quite a slope, so going from one end of it to the other involves quite a climb over some difficult terrain. This new reservoir is a huge change, particularly for the women. Women are responsible for gathering water, no matter their state of health, whether they are pregnant or new mothers. They gather it in large aluminum vessels in a huge wicker basket and then carry it using a tump line over the forehead. It is quite incredible that we got to where we did."

By: David and Libby Denbigh,
Volunteers with World Neighbours Canada, Oliver

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Researching opportunities that change lives

"Muli Bwanji! Greetings from Zambia. I have spent the past five and a half months working as an Information and Advocacy Intern at Women For Change (WfC), a Zambian non-governmental organization. WfC works with rural communities, mainly women and children, to promote development through social and economic empowerment activities. These trips have taught me that while there is a great deal of poverty, hunger and sickness, and the need for social and economic reform is urgent, there is also laughter, dancing, happiness and hope. I have also experienced a totally different, more collectivist work culture. *This experience has left a profound impact on me in terms of how I understand and conceptualize inequality, poverty, dignity and resiliency.*

My advice to students who are interested in interning or working internationally is to research prospective opportunities to ensure the organization is engaging in sustainable activities, delivered in partnership with the intended beneficiaries. Your intern or volunteer experience will greatly impact and enrich the rest of your life."

By: Melanie Solterbeck,
Intern with Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA), Victoria

'Take Action' and be part of making a difference!

Be Visible - Organize an event: Organize a small event, like a potluck at your home on a particular theme and share information about the issue.

Be Vocal - Continue the discussion, spread the word: Have a discussion about what it means locally and globally.

Be Informed - Learn more about poverty issues: For example; Join one of VIDEA's Breakthrough for Africa groups and help to create sustaining relationships between educational institutions in Canada and the rural communities with which VIDEA works in Zambia.

Be Involved - Support an organization and/or campaign: Brainstorm ways to be involved, with your time, your ideas, your networks, your voice or participation at events.

Check out these websites for more information:

Global Citizens for Change: www.globalcitizensforchange.ca
Global Treatment Access Group (HIV/AIDS): www.aidslaw.ca/gtag
'Climate Action Kit': www.climatechange.pacificpeoplespartnership.org
Global Learning Action Network: www.bcyouthzone.ca

Increase your awareness of international development issues

↓

Understand the local - global connection
(The cause and effect of global issues)

↓

Take a stand:
Become involved and take Action

International Development Week
$500
www.bccic.ca
Deadline
Feb. 16/09
Prize Draw

IDW Calendar February 1-15 2009

February 1 Sunday

Voices from Around the World: Speaker Series and Networking Forum
Location: Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus, Young Auditorium 216, **Victoria**
Time: 10 am – 4 pm
Description: Event includes keynote Speaker Norman Chavula, a representative for the Zambian NGO Women, workshops and forum for group discussion about global issues.
Contact: Cora LaRussa, coralarussa@yahoo.ca

February 2 Monday

Hunger Dinner
Location: TBA, **Victoria**
Time: 5 pm
Description: Event will highlight issues such as world hunger and the global distribution of wealth. Norman Chavula of the Zambian NGO Women for Change will speak at this event.
Contact: Kim Veller, k_vells@hotmail.com

February 3 Tuesday

Film Night presented by CIDA
Location: Camosun College, Young Auditorium 216, **Victoria**
Time: 6:30 pm
Description: Featuring CIDA-supported documentary "Song for Africa" with discussions and CIDA representative in attendance.
Contact: Cora LaRussa, coralarussa@yahoo.ca

February 4 Wednesday

Words At Work
Location: The Black Stilt Coffee Lounge (Fort Street location), **Victoria**
Time: 7:30 pm
Description: Role of literature and the arts in promoting and raising awareness about international development. Showcasing local authors and the multi-cultural PUENTE Theatre
Contact: Amy Reiswig, amyreiswig005@hotmail.com

February 5 Thursday

"Through an African Lens" Photo Exhibit – Opening Reception
Location: Dale's Gallery, **Victoria**
Time: 7 pm
Description: "Through an African Lens"-HIV/AIDS photo documentary and children's participatory photography project.
Contact: Avril Camozzi, avrilca@gmail.com

February 5 Thursday

Afghanistan and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
Location: University of Northern British Columbia, **Prince George**
Time: 6:30 – 8:00pm
Description: CIDA representatives will address MDGs, with specific emphasis on Afghanistan.
Contact: lytlej@unbc.ca

February 6 Friday

Canada and the MDGs
Location: University of Northern British Columbia, **Prince George**
Description: Day symposium of panel discussions, presentations and guest speakers.
Contact: lytlej@unbc.ca

February 6 & 7

2009 World Community Film Festival
Location: Courtenay, **Comox**
Description: Social justice and environmental documentaries set around the world.
Contact: Wayne Bradley at (250) 337 5412 www.worldcommunity.ca

February 7 Saturday

World Dance Party with Silent Auction
Location: Norway House, **Victoria**
Time: 8 pm – 12 am
Description: Dance party featuring DJ Dancing Wolf and Wontanara Drum and Dance and silent auction.
Contact: Sabine Laubental, sabine_l@shaw.ca

February 7 Saturday

Local and Global Communities: Creating Solutions
Location: College of New Caledonia, **Prince George**
Description: Forum theatre workshop and presentation, NGOs display and discussion for the whole community. Join us!
Contact: bahaarafshar@hotmail.com

February 7 & 8

Humanity Strikes Back!
Location: Canadian Red Cross Lower Mainland Office 3400 Lake City Way, **Burnaby**
Time: 9am-5pm
Description: Youth conference on humanitarian issues for high school students Grade 9-12.
Contact: www.redcross.ca/lowermainland

February 13 to 15

World Community Film Festival: Acts of Hope & Courage
Location: Langara College, **Vancouver**
Description: Social justice and environmental documentaries set around the world
Contact: www.codev.org/filmfest

Design by polkabytes